

## 2023 Snow Bird SS1000



While planning routes in BaseCamp or Google Maps, we occasionally find that it is difficult to accurately obtain the absolute “shortest” or “quickest” route to visit all the checkpoint locations. However, on this ride, you will find that shortest and quickest routes have nearly identical mileage and time. You may use any route you choose, of course, as long as you take photos of all the locations in the listed order and obtain any additional receipts required to document your ride. (Note: rider flag with number clearly visible must be in all “Snow Bird” photos). All of the checkpoints are on public property, but please be respectful. Never place your flag on private property. If you have never used a flag to document your ride before, please study Rally Flag 101 at <http://www.ironbutt.com/daytona/rallyflag101.html>

The shortest possible route is about 1,085 miles, and this is what your certificate will state. Using “quickest” or “shortest time” in your route preferences in your mapping software and on your GPS should come close to the example route depicted above. About 23 percent of this example route, or 249 miles, is on non-Interstate highways.

We recommend riding in the counter-clockwise direction. This places you on the non-Interstate roads during daylight hours. However you may ride clockwise, due to weather, etc.

The instructions and photos on the following pages will guide you on this adventure. GPS coordinates and street addresses are given for each checkpoint.

**Photo 1: TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR ODOMETER BEFORE YOU START THE RIDE**

Odometer reading must be legible in the photo.

**START CHECK-IN:** Opens at 6:00 AM Thursday March 9, 2023, in the lobby of the Ramada. Sign a Release Form there and collect your rally flag. For those staying at the Ramada, a light breakfast will be available in the restaurant as part of your room rate. Rider meeting at 6:45 AM; ride starts shortly after that.

GPS: 30.1824, -81.6273

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center  
3130 Hartley Rd, Jacksonville, Florida

**Make sure your rally flag and number are clearly visible in each “Snow Bird” Photo. Flag not required in the ODO/receipt photos.**



**Photo 2:** I-75 Welcome Center near Georgia Border

GPS: 30.6130, -83.1475

1247 I-75, Jennings, Florida  
(4 road miles northwest of Jennings)

On your trip as a Snowbird in Florida your first stop is at the Florida Welcome Center. Take a photo of the “Florida Welcomes You” sign located safely on the grounds of the welcome center.



Do not forget to get a free cup of orange or grapefruit juice while you are there. You may also want to grab a free Florida map and some tourist information brochures from the vast selection they have on hand. *"The Official Florida Welcome Center (I-75) is more than a rest stop, it's a one-stop resource for planning your Florida vacation. Our Certified Florida Information Specialists are happy to assist you with your travel planning needs from directions, to destinations, to up-to-date road conditions. Take a rest and relax in our air-conditioned lobby. We also have on-site covered picnic tables and outdoor space for you to stretch your legs. Security on-site nightly 8pm-6am."*

Please note, this welcome center is only accessible from the south bound lanes of I-75. You will be coming at it headed north. This means you must continue all the way to the next exit which is ~3.3 road miles north of the welcome center. From Georgia I-75 Exit 2, re-enter I-75 South. Ride the ~3.3 road miles back to the welcome center. Please do not be tempted to use the emergency turn-around or cross over as these are for emergency vehicles only. Not only is this frowned on by the local authorities, but the ride to the exit and back is part of the SS1000 ride. You would only be cheating yourself, and as all riders will probably be in this area about the same time, there is a good chance one of them will see you, and I am sure we would hear about it. Some Rally Masters have been known to position a ride staff member at a turn-around point and take a photo of every motorcycle that goes onto the expressway entrance ramp. If there is no photo of your MC passing this point, "bonus denied". Not that we would do that ☺. Consider this good training if you plan to ride any competitive long distance riding events, as it is not uncommon for a rally master to make you ride past something only to U-turn and have to ride right by it again. These types of things help to build character. Just be glad this is not at the end of the ride when your will power is weaker and your desire to finish may increase the temptation. On a lighter note, just be glad you did not sign-up for the BBG, as they have to ride ~17 road miles past their welcome center, then turn around and ride 17 road miles back.

**Photo 3:** The Villages Sales and Information Center

GPS: 28.8447, -82.0212

2705 W. Torch Lake Dr, Wildwood, Florida

Take a photo of the sales office and information center. While there check out the more than 50 golf courses with more than 700 holes. It is also believed to be the largest retirement community in the world. It boasts over 750 miles of roads (possible future BBG route by riding two laps??), covers 40 square miles, over 70,000 homes and more than 125,000 residents.



Please be careful when you visit. Back in 2006, two Orlando news stations released reports describing an increase in the number of STDs (Sexually Transmitted Disease) diagnosed at a retirement community known as The Villages. Then, in 2009, the *New York Post* published an article titled "Retire to the Bedroom," and that was when even more readers learned more about The Villages, which is the biggest gated retirement community for seniors in the United States. Once again, the focus of the article was on the fact that The Villages had become known as the senior community with one of the highest STD rates amongst its residents.

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**Photo 4:** Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

GPS: 28.5165, -82.5739

6131 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, Florida

Take a photo of the statue atop the fountain's pedestal in front of the entrance to Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. This has been a must visit location in Florida for the last six decades. If you have time, the mermaid show is well worth seeing.





**Photo 5:** Seminole Casino

GPS: 27.0882 -81.0705

17735 Reservation Rd, Okeechobee, Florida

Take a photo of the casino sign. Do not forget to visit the casino and take a chance to win some extra cash to help finance your stay in Florida.



**Photo 6:** Noah's Landing Apartments

GPS: 26.1667 -81.6900

10555 Noah's Circle, Naples, Florida

Take a photo of the sign at the entrance. *"Highlighting the best of everything you're looking for in a Florida apartment home, Noah's Landing includes many of the "extras" that make life extraordinarily enjoyable. We offer a choice of pet-friendly 1, 2 or 3 bedroom floor plans, each built of solid concrete construction and fully equipped with today's most popular features. Noah's Landing also offers a variety of community amenities, including our fitness center, sparkling outdoor pool, community room and much more. We have a full range of community service programs for residents. Best of all, Noah's Landing is conveniently located in Naples and our affordable prices put the best of everything within your reach!"*



**Photo 7:** Florida Health Department

GPS: 25.7478 -80.3865

Las Americas V Central Plaza  
11865 SW 26<sup>th</sup> St, Miami, Florida

Take a photo of the health department sign at this location. There was a story that started in the early 2000's that The Villages had the highest STD rate in the country. We will let you do your own research to get to the real truth of this story. With that said, and an over abundance of caution, we are having you visit a public health department prior to returning to the IBA Pizza party.



**Photo 8:** Take a photo of your final/ending receipt and odometer at the end of your ride. Information and odometer must be readable in the photo.

Complete your ride by obtaining a gas receipt from a station close to the Ramada. Check the receipt to ensure that it includes a Jacksonville location and the CORRECT time.



Some 24-hour gas stations in Jacksonville near the Ramada:

- Speedway at 30.1933, -81.6239, 10141 San Jose Blvd, (0.8 road miles north)
- Shell at 30.2044, -81.6168, 9551 San Jose Blvd, (1.7 road miles north)
- GATE at 30.2051, -81.6176, 9540 San Jose Blvd, (1.7 road miles north)

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**FINISH CHECK-IN:** Friday, March 10, from 10 AM to 2 PM.

GPS: 30.1824, -81.6273

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 3130 Hartley Rd, Jacksonville, Florida

Verification will be on Friday, March 10, from 10 AM to 2 PM. **Bring your photos (camera or phone).** You do not need to print the photos; we will view them on the camera or phone display. The Verification room will be just to the right of the front desk, through the double doors, near the banquet room.

In an emergency, or for assistance during the ride, or to notify us that you will not complete the ride, please call: **Lisa Landry 949-422-1003** or **Michael Kneebone 773-909-9219**

Good luck! Jim Fousek, Rallymaster