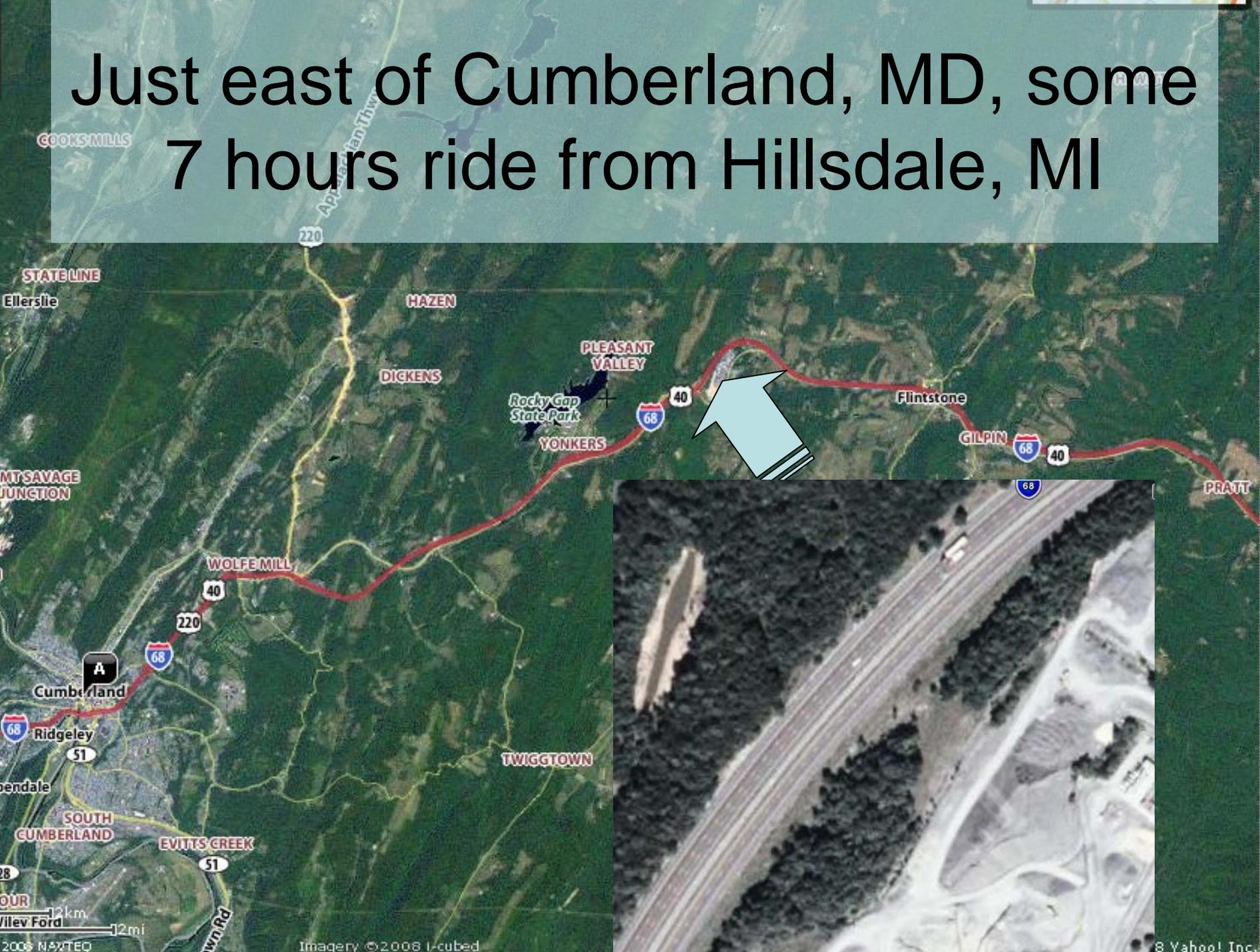


DISMOUNT AT 70MPH

David D. Hambleton
2000 BMW R1100RT-P

Just east of Cumberland, MD, some 7 hours ride from Hillsdale, MI



Dismount

- Near 10:00pm, August 3rd, I was riding in the slow lane eastbound down the hill out of Cumberland in the big right-hand curve. I looked to see what I thought may be a deer on the roadside. I was making sure it would stay there and not jump in front of me when I got the lesson (yet again...) about not watching the right hand waving when the left packs the punch. When I looked back to the road, I was about to engage with the passenger side rear quarter panel and bumper of a car next to me in the fast lane. I had misjudged the curve, and wasn't turning tight enough, drifting across the road. I pushed hard to turn, but didn't have time to get away. The bike hit the car and my front end rose up. My front wheel, now off the road, cocked to the right violently. I couldn't pull it back straight because the handlebar was on the car, and I knew when it came down the bike would tumble, so I jumped. I saw the bike's front wheel contact the ground and the back end bound into the air as I contacted the ground and rolled.
- I ended up on my front side, sliding down the road wondering when this would end – and hoping the end wouldn't come too abruptly. As I stopped, I saw the bike what appeared like 50 yards beyond me sliding and streaming sparks, stopping with a crunch as it contacted the jersey wall.

Triage

- I was amazed to find that I could stand and my body part inventory came in complete. My left ankle felt a bit tweaked but the boot was OK, so I figured it wasn't too severe a problem. My elbows stung, so I knew I had some strawberries, but if I'd had my jacket zipped properly they'd probably be better off yet. I headed up the road to see what I'd left behind and a car stopped next to me. I was looking for my phone, which had ejected from its holster on my hip. It was directly under the rocker panel of the car that had stopped, but missing its battery. The driver of that car asked if I was OK, and said she was with the local volunteer fire department, so she would call for help.
- Another lady in scrubs walked up the road from where the bike was. After she asked how I was feeling, she told me she had been following me and couldn't avoid running over my backpack. She apologized and said she had picked it up and left it near the bike. She said she was an EMT just getting off her shift, and checked my eyes with her flashlight, stating that I seemed OK, but should get checked out by a doctor. She asked if my neck hurt. I told her it did not and showed her that my helmet was not damaged.

A Hug and Assessment

- I picked up a mirror that had fallen off the bike and put it with my helmet and gloves along the jersey barrier. The girl who had been driving the car I'd hit walked up with her two passengers. She was upset and wanted to make sure I was all right. I told her I was OK, and apologized, asking if her car was damaged. She said it only got a bit of paint on it and was fine, but she was shaken and wanted to hug me to feel that I was not hurt. Fire and rescue arrived and asked us to move to out of the median and off the inside of the curve so oncoming traffic wouldn't take someone out. We went to the grass on the side of the road and an ambulance arrived.
- The ambulance crew checked my vitals and we found a strawberry on my left knee as well as both elbows, but otherwise no apparent damage. They recommended X-rays of my left ankle and right elbow to make sure I was not missing any problems in the adrenaline rush of the accident. The State Police arrived and took care of getting the bike towed and getting information from me and the other driver for the report.

Overnight

- I called Cassie and Randy, my site manager in DC, and went to the hospital to get checked out. The Emergency Room staff was great. They cleaned me up and bandaged my scrapes, took X-rays and proved nothing was broken, gave me crutches for the sprained ankle and some cleaning and bandaging supplies, anti-inflammatory and pain pills and a shot of morphine, and arranged a room for me at the local Holiday Inn.
- I didn't sleep, but rested – as is my normal reaction to morphine. In the morning I called Cassie, the insurance company, work, and car rental companies. Work called back and Ron Osimo decided to come up and get me so I could save the rental cost and take pain medication if I needed it. I went to the pharmacy and found a coffee shop while I was waiting.
- My backpack's center compartment had blown out and disgorged all of its contents, including my camera. My laptop had about a 30 degree bend vertically across the keyboard and screen – both of which were sprung and broken almost as badly as the hinges. The battery was no longer connected. I later recovered the RAM and Hard Disk Drive from the carcass, but am still waiting to see if I can get any information off the drive.

Morning After

- The insurance adjuster from Progressive would not be able to see the bike until much later, but was very positive about his ability to make restitution to me for the loss.
- It was well after noon when Ron and I went to see the bike at the towing yard. It was in pretty rough shape. We recovered my personal effects and took some pictures with his camera. We then went back to the accident site on the way out of town and looked for my camera or other artifacts on the road side, but found nothing of any value.
- Last night I was able to shower (that STUNG!!!), change my dressings, and actually get some sleep for a few hours (a rare thing when I'm on pain medications), and today I'm back at work.
- It is amazing that, even as I rolled and slid down the road, I didn't feel at risk of my life. I was – and still am – grateful to find everything intact so that I can walk and feel the scrapes I've undergone. I've felt the prayers of my wife and children throughout, and seen the genuine concern of the people at the scene, including the other motorcyclist who just stopped because he saw a bike down and wanted to make sure I didn't need anything. It was really neat that an EMT and local Fire and Rescue professional were first on the scene.

Where was God?

- But why should I be amazed at God looking out for me? He has ever been most faithful – even when I’m gawking to the right when I should keep my eyes straight ahead and remain aware of what is on my left. Isaiah 40:31 says, “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” I was raised up off the bike when I got it tangled in the world. I’ll run again soon, but meanwhile I walk and do not faint from fear or pain, and even engage in my work.
- I am ever grateful for the prayers and concerns of friends and family – some long before Sunday’s events. God bless you who pray.

Landing Pad





**Shredded
top and
knees**



Leatherman case looked new and that connector was new and was in my front left pocket

Jacket Back



Jacket Left Side



Jacket Left Elbow



Jacket Right Elbow



The image shows the back of a blue, long-sleeved shirt laid flat on a white surface. The shirt is wrinkled and has several brownish stains. One large, irregular stain is located in the lower center, near the waistband. Another smaller stain is visible on the right shoulder area. The text 'Shirt Back' is centered in the upper half, and 'Along belt and right shoulder damage' is centered below it.

Shirt Back
Along belt and right shoulder
damage

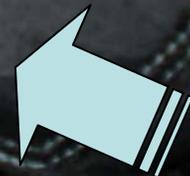
Left side of boots



Right Side of Boots



Glove Palm





Glove Thumb

What's left of the Laptop



Thank you HP (computer mfr.) and Toshiba (Hard Disk Drive mfr.),
my data was recoverable...

My Blackberry wound up next to me. A fireman found the battery, and the EMT gave me the tape to heal it. It worked to call Cassie from the ambulance.



Backpack was
on the radio
box, so it took
the first
bounce as the
bike went
over, then was
run over by the
car following
me





Center pocket blew out on bottom, opened on top and lost its contents. Laptop was a total loss.

The Left side case stayed on the bike.



Right Side – note the new stylish
rake to the top fairing and the
throttle is bent under





Left side
(The seat is still in
pretty good
shape...)



There must be
4 gallons of gas
in there!!!

Head End
Entire left side is
folded in and throttle
and engine protection
bar are bent 90° from
original.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- **God**
- **Cassie and the kids** – and all my family and friends for your concerns and prayers
- **Cortech** – for the jacket that took most of the abuse (riders used to die of blood loss over this kind of crash)
- **Carhartt** – for the trousers that saved my backside and frontside and backside and...
- **H&H** – for the boots that saved my feet
- **Joe Rocket** – for the gloves that kept my hands intact
- **HP** and **Toshiba** – the HP laptop died an ugly death, but it protected the Toshiba hard disk drive so I was able to recover all my data.

THANK GOD

- For the prayers that helped me through
- For the gear that saved most of my hide
- For those Cumberland residents, random Interstate Highway 68 travelers, EMT, Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Room professionals who were there to deal with the mess
- For His peace throughout