

Submitting Articles – Writer’s Guidelines

Iron Butt Magazine is devoted to publishing information on all aspects of long distance riding. If you’d like to contribute something to this endeavor, we are always looking for talented writers and contributors and would love to hear from you.

General Guidelines

So, what exactly are we looking for?

The best topics to write about are those that will appeal to other long distance riders. Technical how-to articles and motorcycle improvements or modifications, for instance, are very popular. Since the *Iron Butt Magazine* is not published on a monthly basis like other periodicals, non-time-sensitive subjects are also preferred.

The article should be a well-researched and informative piece, 500 – 3,000 words in length, accompanied by three or more sharp photographs, and include a short (~50-word) bio about yourself to be included at the end of the article. It can be submitted via email (preferable) or on a CD – ASCII text (.txt) files are the most convenient since we can always open them; files created using Microsoft Word (.doc) are also acceptable.

Other helpful hints: only one space is necessary between sentences; it is not necessary to italicize, underline or bold words in your story – plain text is fine; do not embed the photos into the story – they should be separate attachments or files (see below); and have someone else proofread your article for accuracy, specifically checking that the names of people, places and other factual information are correct.

It’s also best to run an idea by us first before investing a lot of time on the article, just in case it’s been done before or someone else is working on the same thing. The source for any technical material must be referenced (unless its development is explained in the article or it is readily verifiable from publicly available sources), and attribution is required if published research is used. Documented permission is required for the use of any photographic images that were created by others. Please include a suggested headline or two, your name, and a telephone number and/or email address in case we need to contact you during the editing process.

In this respect, the *Iron Butt Magazine* reserves the right to refuse, edit or modify any submitted articles and assumes first serial publication rights. Every article is submitted to a peer review committee that is comprised of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, and any associate editors or subject matter experts as required. The job of this committee is to refine submissions prior to publication if needed. So please don’t be offended if some changes are made to your original document. Since this is an all-volunteer effort, no compensation will be made for any submissions.

Below is a list of the common reasons manuscripts are rejected – if it falls into any of these areas, chances are it won’t be accepted:

1. The article is too long (nothing over 3000 words without prior authorization).
2. There are no accompanying photos, art or illustrations with the article.
3. The article is not specific/applicable to long distance riding/riders.
4. The article is a product report of some kind without complete information or a complete evaluation.
5. The article does not include references, resources or attribution.

6. The article is too brief or dated.

Photo Guidelines

All photo images should be submitted in digital form. Like the article itself, pictures can be attached to an email (preferable) or sent on a CD. Uncompressed, RAW images from digital cameras are preferred. TIFF or JPEG images are acceptable; however, any images submitted must provide at least 300 dpi resolution when printed 7 inches wide. A brief caption should be included with each image.

Don't worry about editing the images, that's our job too. We also recommend that you vary your images between landscape and portraits and avoid me-and-my-bike snapshots. Action shots work well, as do pictures taken from unique angles and/or exposures. In short, make your photos support the article. Finally, please make sure that there isn't a date or timestamp on any photo – otherwise they won't be used.