



Team Strange 40th Anniversary Grand Tour

April 1 through November 15, 2024

(Originally run by Team Strange Airheads for our 21st Anniversary and reprised for our 30th anniversary and now reprised again for our 40th anniversary)

These rules are pretty much copied from the 30th Anniversary version, with some updates, so blame Eddie and Jonathan. And Canada.

The following comprises the rules & requirements for this event. While we hope that every question you might have is answered here, please feel free to direct any questions to grandtour@davidebsmith.com. Remember, the only silly question is the one YOU ask...err, don't ask. Whatever. Fasten your seatbelts, 'cause here we go.

THE BASICS (or "What the heck do we have to do...?")

The goal for the event is to spell out the phrase "Team Strange Airheads 40" using photos of city limit signs or post office signs and a Highway 40 sign in any one of three challenging ways:

Challenge #1) Traditional Grand Tour method

Submit photos using a town that starts with the letter T (example: Tarantula, AZ), followed by a town that starts with the letter E (example: Eagan, MN) etc., concluding with a photo of a highway 40 sign. Any towns from any states are acceptable but you can't re-use towns. All riders completing this method will be declared finishers.

If you are a rider in Australia, we're told that there are only two route 40s at opposite ends of your country. So you may submit any highway route sign with a "40" in it, or two signs, with a "4" and a "0".

If you're in another country where there is no highway 40, contact us.

(There are 19 letters in "Team Strange Airheads" so this challenge can be done in 20 or 21 stops).

Challenge # 2) The Eddie James Award

This will be given to all riders who visit a city in a different state for each letter, and submit a State Highway sign photo from a state not used for any of the above photos that says "40". The "40" sign must identify the state (see below).

Note: For this challenge, a rider could expect to use Post Office photos almost exclusively – it is rather uncommon to find many city limit signs that also name the state.

Riders who complete this challenge will be declared Eddie James Award Finishers.

(We are also trying to get the ghost of Eddie James III to come and haunt your garage – but he is holding out for more \$\$...)

If you are a rider in Canada: you can use each province or territory twice, or you can use US states once each. For example, you could submit two photos each from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, PEI, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and one each from Maine and New York. The "40" sign need not identify the province.

If you are a rider in Australia: you can use each state or territory up to 4 times. For example, you could submit four photos each from Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria, and Norfolk Island (good luck). You may submit any highway route sign with a "40" in it, or two signs, with a "4" and a "0". The "40" signs need not identify the state or territory.

If you're in another country where there is no highway 40, contact us.

(This challenge can be done in 20 or 21 stops).

Challenge # 3) The Efficiency Award

This will be given to the rider(s) who completes this event using the fewest number of town names to spell "Team Strange Airheads 40". How do you do that? Well, you still spell out "Team Strange Airheads 40" but you use city names that have more than one letter, in the correct order, starting at the beginning of the town name, to spell "Team Strange Airheads 40." (The 40 must be from a state or county HWY/Road sign) So for example, if your first stop is Tea, South Dakota, you have already spelled the first three letters of the challenge. The rider (or two up riders) who complete this challenge will be declared Efficiency Award Finishers. The rider (or

two up riders) who complete this challenge in the fewest stops will be declared the Efficiency Award Winner. If there is a tie, the Efficiency Award Winner will be the one who rode the fewest miles between stops as determined by the judges.

Please note that if you try to win the efficiency award and fail, you will not be considered a finisher unless you also qualified for either the "Traditional" or "Eddie James" finishing level shown above (or are a finisher of the GTGT).

Please also note that the winning rider in 2014 finished with an efficiency score of 6. The winning combination can be found out there on the Internet, but that doesn't mean the 6 locations are still out there in the real world.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Entry fee is \$50. This gets you entry into the Gran Turismo Grand Tour and the Team Strange 40th Anniversary Grand Tour. You can do either or both.

You may use more than one bike, including rentals and loaners.

We reserve the right to verify all submissions by whatever means we deem necessary.

The Gran Turismo Grand Tour and the Team Strange 40th Anniversary Grand Tour use the exact same GT Flag. Your number and flag for one GT is your number and flag for both GTs.

Flags and stickers will be mailed initially around March 15, and thereafter whenever riders sign up.

Riders who successfully complete any of the three 40th Anniversary challenges will be considered Finishers and receive a finishers pin. If the Efficiency Award Winner completes the challenge with a score of less than 6, that rider will receive a commemorative plaque.

Team Strange 40th Anniversary Grand Tour Rules

In addition to these rules, the 2024 Grand Tour Rules found [here](#) also apply. In the event of conflict, ask.

- 1) To complete the event, you must have a series of photos spelling out "Team Strange Airheads 40" as described above. Failure to complete the spelling of the phrase will be considered a DNF.
- 2) Photos for the Team Strange 40th Anniversary Grand Tour must be of a city limit sign or a Post Office as proof of visiting that location. No other marker (example: library, police station, business, etc.) is acceptable. For city limit signs, we will accept most any variations of the traditional signs you see at the city limits of a town. (Examples: Signs reading Eagan.

Welcome to Eagan. Welcome to Eagan, home of the Eagles. The Eagan Stone Cutters welcome you, etc.)

- 3) Your motorcycle, rally flag and appropriate sign must be in all photos.
- 4) Your motorcycle must have been ridden to the location. Photos of bikes in trucks or on trailers will not be accepted (and will be posted on our website for public derision).
- 5) Highway 40 signs may be of any state or county sign if completing the basic tour. If competing for the Eddie James Award, the photo must be of a STATE HIGHWAY sign, with the state clearly identified (example: Ohio and Minnesota State Highway signs show the shape of the state with the Highway # in the center – that's "clearly identified". Do NOT send us a photo of a sign with a circle, square or other hieroglyphic and attempt to pass that off as an "identifier"). If it is not readily apparent to our not-too-worldly judges, it is not apparent – and you have been warned. DC and territories count as states. *See above for special rules for Canada, Australia, and rest of world riders. And see below for an illustration of highway signs that are acceptable.*
- 6) Every photo submitted must be in a digital format and submitted via e-mail, or by using an online photo-sharing tool such as Photo Bucket. No Polaroid, tin etching, printed photo, or other archaic mechanism for sharing an image should appear in our mailboxes. That stuff may have flown for our 21st Anniversary but you have to live in the now man!! Please ensure your photo is clear. If we cannot read it, it does not count. (See the Q&A for the Gran Turismo Grand Tour for more details).
- 7) All photos must be received by November 15, 2024. Send photos or the link to your photos to grandtour@davidebsmith.com
- 8) Decision of the judges is final. So there.
- 9) The official source of information for the Team Strange Grand Tour is www.teamstrange.com. Any notification of event updates or modifications will be made there.
- 10) Photos submitted for the efficiency award must spell TEAM STRANGE AIRHEADS 40 using consecutive letters starting at the beginning of the town name. So you could use TEA SD but not STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CO (because TEAM is not at the start of the town name). Likewise you can't use THAMESVILLE ON because it is missing an E and has an H in between T and AM. But if you can find a town named TEAMSVILLE and a town named TRANGER that would be golden.
- 11) Questions? Ask grandtour@davidebsmith.com

Sample highway signs for the Eddie James Award



Highway signs that are acceptable are indicated with a red star