



By Roger Wiles

## Wind, Golf, and Teeth

**H**ope you're making plans for the big family reunion, the BMW MOA's annual International Rally this July! Maybe a member's Tip will make your trip safer, more convenient and more enjoyable. Remember the stuff you learn along the way, and be prepared to share it with the rest of us when you get home. And, here are two great Tips for rally-goers: Consider enrolling in the BMW MOA Foundation's "Experienced Rider Course," and "Accident Scene Management" seminar; both are scheduled during the Rally.

**Stay kissin' sweet!** Many riders carry travel-sized toothbrushes when they travel. Trouble is, these often have poor-quality bristles. I buy a quality toothbrush, and simply cut off the handle, and wrap some tape around the handle. (Francesco Rizzuto, #73411, AB)

**From my moto-experiences all over North America,** I've come up with these problem-solvers: Credit-card-sized Multi-Meter, available at consumer electronics supply stores, wire-nuts, a knife for wire-stripping, cable-ties, two types of copper-wire (stiff residential electrical wire, and the normal 14-16 gauge automobile wire), and split lead fishing weights – these can also be used to splice difficult wires. Add electrical tape, two-part epoxy-putty, and fuses that fit your bike. Then, put a new tube of rubber cement in your diddy-bag each trip, along with good-quality sticky tire-plug snakes and/or a tube patch-kit if your bike is not equipped with tubeless tires. Next, get a toothpaste-size tube of waterless hand-cleaner and some paper towels. Finally 'Pledge' furniture polish can clean your eyeglasses, faceshield, windshield and nearly anything else. I could go on.... (Randy 'Polarbear', #13233, CA)

**GoreTex® leaks air;** that's how the water-vapors can escape. If you ride out in the wind, on an unfaired bike, you will notice this! Try wearing a lightweight windproof jacket, such as golfers wear, between the outer layer or electric liner, and the GoreTex® riding jacket. This will greatly increase the heat-retention. Also, don't zip the jacket and liner together, if they are so equipped, especially if the two zippers line up; they are an easy path for cold air infiltration. Zip the liner separately, and then push the liner out of alignment with the riding jacket. (Don Montgomery, #56265, GA)

**More from Rand...** If you're tankbag's map-case is yellowed with age and sunlight, here's a fix: Obtain four metal or plastic 'D-rings,' and fasten them to the sides of the tankbag, sewing them on with a strip of stout cloth. Obtain some gallon-sized zipper freezer-bags, and some mini-bungee cords. Your map goes into the freezer-bags, and then it is secured to the top of the tankbag with the mini-bungees, clipping them to the newly-installed D-rings. Add one of those clamp-on battery-powered reading lights available at bookstores, and you can even see it at night.

**If the rubber kneepads are coming off from the sides of the gas-tank,** try using common white bathtub silicon caulk to fasten them back on. I did this ten years ago, and the kneepads are still securely fastened to the tank.

**If you are unsure that your campground has good, hot showers,** try using a portable camping-shower product called "Sunshower" (Target, and other stores). Fill it with water, and strap it on the seat behind you while riding all day. By evening, the water will be hot, and I mean

**HOT!** Hang up the 'Sunshower' in a tree, and you will enjoy a nice, warm ablution.

**An inexpensive down comforter added to your camping kit takes up little more space than a loaf of bread,** but it can extend your comfort range down to near zero degrees Fahrenheit during the long, cold night. (Rand Rasmussen, #63360, ND)

**Riders need to learn to deal with crosswinds;** mountains and deserts, as well as open prairie, can often be this way. Sometimes, a constant crosswind causes the rider to hold a constant lean to correct for the wind-pressure. Consider riding in the lane, and segment of that lane, nearest the direction of the wind; this way, if an unexpected gust comes along, you have room to recover. Consider the 'lee-side' of big vehicles, when passing them in either direction; the crosswinds will be suddenly and momentarily blocked, and then will re-occur just as suddenly. Quick actions are required to correct for crosswinds. (Joe R. Houseworth, #127599, CA)

*"Touring Tips" is a monthly column in the 'Owners News' which allows each of us to learn something new from the collective wisdom of the BMW moto-touring family. Contributions are welcome from all BMW MOA Members. Maybe you've learned how to conquer 'Butt-Burn,' or solve a roadside problem quickly and easily. "Touring Tips" can include technical information related to "Kluge Repairs" and quick fixes – however, we don't deal with technical stuff inside the engine or drive-train. Send your Touring Tips to the TT Editor, Roger Wiles (32797) at: roger@rogerwiles.com or 9223 Hill Street, Blairsville, GA 30512. If published, the ON Editorial Offices will send you a nice 'thank you' gift.*