



By Roger Wiles

Chamois, Gold Bond, and a Sharpie!

It's HOT! Ride north! Hope you had a good time at the International Rally in Wisconsin. This first Tip really rings my bell!

You know, I or perhaps "we" in general, live fairly structured lives in our everyday goings on. When I hit the trail on my Beemers, I try hard to leave it all where it is and not take it with me, as I'm sure the majority of us think vacation should be, right! Well, this leads to my favorite "Touring Tip" and that is; "Go Unstructured," at least in my plans for where I spend the night and my routes. Over the years, I've met countless folks along the way that have their trip planned so directly and so thoughtfully, that I wonder if they have been noticing the sights at all... At least they have broken the home barrier and are out there, I say. I have to go my way and leave the home/work life behind and see North America as it really is, and I've never regretted my way of travel one bit! From short riding days to long, long 1,000-milers, I've done the "ride until you stop" kind of riding each day, and its been just sweet as can be. The road's end always has a spot for rest, whether camping or moteling, and if you're not too choosy, even the more populated areas have something to offer with all the folks in mass...So, "ride" a little less structured lifestyle and enjoy the day as it is, without any timeline for whatever you think greets your days end. I do it all the time and find the trip and ride much more enjoyable. Now if I could just find more money and do it more! My retirement is not quite here, but closing... Happy Trails, (Randy Owens, #13233, CA)

Here's my Tip: Use a synthetic chamois as a towel. Athletes at

swim-meets use them instead of towels, and moto-travelers can, too. Dry your body with it, just like you would 'shammy' off your bike after a wash. When finished, replace it in the plastic bag, or allow it to dry out in a mesh bag. A synthetic chamois takes up far less room than a regular towel, and does not need to be laundered. (Paul Kneisel, #132064, NJ)

When riding west, late in the day, the sun can really be a problem. I have a full-face helmet with flip-up feature. If the sun is causing trouble, I flip my helmet chin-bar up and use that like the brim of a hat to shade the sun from my eyes. (Remember that you have less protection for the face, chin and teeth! RW, TT Ed) When riding through the mountains, I stay away from the right lane, due to the increased oil-slick that can be present due to oil-leaks from overheated vehicles, and from diesel-fuel spills. (Todd Nordwig, #106291, WI)

To prevent 'monkey-butt,' try good-quality padded bicycle shorts, and Gold Bond Powder. Be sure to wash them every night with an antibacterial soap, for obvious reasons. I switch between two different pairs, so the can dry out totally. Oh yeah, do NOT wear regular underwear. (Michael Battaglia, #128336, MI)

Pack your bags in advance, and make sure they fit in your motorcycle luggage. Many times, you need to arrange items in the bags so that the same weight is on both sides of the bike - you don't want to ride side-saddle to offset the weight imbalance! Always check your tires, and consider fitting a fresh set before a trip; it's better to spend the extra money, than it is to wake up in a hospi-

tal somewhere, wondering, "What happened?" Make copies of all your licenses, registration, passport and credit-cards, and put the copy in your riding jacket, and another copy in a safe place where a family-member can gain access to it (safe deposit box, etc). You never know... (Larry Key, #92569, TN)

Here's another Tip: Keep a list of 'lessons learned,' and add to it after each trip, then, be sure to review the list before the next trip. (Send the list to Touring Tips, too! RW, TT Ed) (Steve O'Leary, #92148, CA)

I have never been able to remember all the usual 'stuff' needed for traveling and camping. I now list everything I may need on the inside of my motorcycle rain-cover; I use a permanent Sharpie (be sure to test it first, in case it is visible on the outside!). Now, when I lay out everything on the garage floor, I just check my list on the cover, and I'm good to go. (Jerry Howell, #84923, OH)

"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 your submission is published, the ON Editorial Offices will send you a nice 'thank you' gift.