



touringtips

By Roger Wiles

Let There Be Light

Here is your final pre-rally set of Touring Tips. Remember to bring some new ones home with you. See you in West Bend!

I use a Kermit duffle-bag (12" x 24") to store my camping gear during trips. The bag is fastened to the rear trunk when I am on the road. So that I'm more visible to other motorists, I purchased a bright yellow reflective stripe from the Christian Motorcyclist Association (<http://www.cmausa.org/>) and stitched it to the exterior of the bag. Any vehicle approaching from the rear gets a full blast of bright yellow reflection, well in advance of seeing me and my bike. (Larry Stevenson, #58100, MO)

When riding on a 24-hour endurance run, or riding across the 'fruited plains' at night, remember to keep drinking water! Your body *needs* fluids to keep you alert. You need to stop and get off that bike every two hours or so, too. I use the Camel Back hydration pack. If the temperatures are cold enough to cause the water to freeze, I wear the pack inside my riding jacket. (Timothy Lindstrom, #60027, MN)

Motorcycle batteries often have tiny little holes! When adding water to my battery, I use an ear syringe. It works well. (Larry Weseman, #113402, NY)

A "Terrific Trio!" - I keep several small zip-up plastic baggies under my seat. In case of rain, I don't mind getting wet, but I can put my wallet and cellphone in waterproof baggies without worry. I carry a small micro-fiber cloth on my bike; when the windshield or visor get too many bugs on them, I find that a damp micro-fiber cloth can remove just about anything without leaving a mark -

but it **MUST** be damp - it works surprisingly well. I always wax my motorcycle with the best available wax before leaving on a road trip; any bugs or dirt come off so much easier when I get home. (Don Canfield, #120642, FL)

A tankbag with ibuprofen, fiber-capsules, water and earphones - done! (Paul Leone, #50444, NH)

The campfire is still burning, and you want to read the latest *ON*, but all you have is a candle, and you're flashlight batteries are getting low. It's easy! Just prop up your aluminum Boy Scout plate on the picnic table in back of the lighted candle; it will reflect enough light, and you can enjoy the latest *Owners News!* (Dan Hubing, 99554, WI)

I have to display my employee badge at the security gate where I work, so I purchased an armband-badge holder designed for skiers. I wear it on the left arm of my riding jacket, so I can point to it out to the gate-guard with my right (throttle) hand while keeping the clutch squeezed. When traveling, I carry my debit- and credit-card there, along with some cash, so I don't have to fumble around to buy gas or a cold drink. (Godzilla, #96815, IN)

Mikee doesn't miss much! When traveling to a strange town to look up a friend - but he's not answering the phone - you are without a GPS - and you're in need of dinner - pass by the local police and fire department, and find a busy pizza delivery joint! They know how to get to any local address, and usually have a big city map up on the wall for show-and-tell. While you're there, buy a nice hot pizza for you and your buddy, and just follow the driver home! If your friend isn't home yet,

at least you have a nice hot dinner while you wait! (Mike Sandlock, #6307, TN)

Lose the Quack! In place of the ubiquitous duct-tape that has held many broken bits together until we get back home, dig a little deeper and spring for 'Gaffers Tape.' It is generally stronger, stickier, survives moisture better, is available in 'motorcycle-black' instead of 'Georgia-Chrome,' and best of all, will not leave a lump of sticky goo behind when you finally peel it off. (Steve Lawrence, #75444, CO)

If your route includes ferry crossings, consider taking at least four tie-down straps with you. Many ferryboats do not supply tie-down equipment for motorcyclist. In addition, carry at least four 'soft-ties' or tie-down assists; these are short strap assemblies with a loop at each end. One end can be looped around some part of the motorcycle, and the other end can be fastened to the metal hook on the tie-down strap. (Alex Clanner, #58577, ON)

"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.