



by Roger Wiles

Flip-Flops and Newspapers

Well, we're all out riding and attending rallies now! You probably learned something new about moto-touring already; share with your motorcycling family. Send in your new Touring Tip.

■ ■ ■ The next time you buy pillowcases, keep the little zippered plastic sleeves they are packed in. These make excellent cases for your folded maps. I recently bought a motorcycle cover, but there's no way I'm going to carry the cover with me on the road. Instead, I use the carry-bag for the cover as a packing tool; I pack my clothes in the carry-bag. It's square, soft and easy to pack, and keeps my clothes dry and neat. As a bonus, the carry-bag, filled with clothes, makes a great pillow for those roadside Iron Butt naps. (Colleen First, #123661, WA)

■ ■ ■ Airheads, here are a couple of tips: Carry a spare length of fuel-hose with you. Engine heat can dry out the fuel-lines and cause them to crack at the worst times. (*You might even replace the lines at the beginning of each season - RW*) The top frame-tube on an Airhead often has a factory-drilled hole at the rear terminus; you can tie-wrap a spare key here, safely out of sight of bike-jackers. It's easy to reach, though; just raise the seat. (*the hollow backbone tube is a good place to hide just about anything small - RW*) (Robert Combs, #7695, AZ)

■ ■ ■ I eat heart-healthy foods at home, but it's sometimes difficult to find good food on the road. I carry backpackers' freeze-dried meals from my local camping store, along with a small gasoline stove, and small pot in my luggage. Now, I have a good meal available

if the rally-fare, or the blue plate special at the roadside diner is off my diet. The new hand-crank flashlights are very good insurance against the dark. Wind it up for maybe a minute, and you have all the light you need, and no worries about dead batteries. (Mark Tiedemann, #64021, PA)

■ ■ ■ Accelerate your moto-touring education; read *"Everything You Need To Know About Touring,"* by Dr. Greg Frazier. Greg has been around the world four times, and has compiled the ultimate collection of Touring Tips. I've been riding for 48 years, and the secret of my survival is to 'Ride like you're invisible!' (Larry Key, #92569, TN)

■ ■ ■ While in Vermont last year, my rain-gear sprung a leak and soaked me from the waist down. When we stopped, I wrapped several layers of newspaper around my legs for insulation. It really saved me from a cold, clammy ride the rest of the evening. (Barry Snyder, #130502, TN)

■ ■ ■ Before leaving on a long trip, I plan out my route the night before; I write down the route in big print, including the towns through which I'll be passing, the distances between the towns, changes in routes, planned gas and meal stops, and the evening's destination. I put this in the top of the tankbag; the big print allows me to get my bearings with a quick glimpse. If other riders are with me, I make copies of the route-sheet and distribute them to others. If we get separated on the road, we know where to link up again. (Chuck Wetzell, #80703, TX)

■ ■ ■ I'm a business Road Warrior - 292 days away from home last year! I keep a small set of personal-care items solely for traveling. You can find small 'sample' sizes of these items - toothpaste, shaving cream, aspirins, etc - at the local pharmacy for less than a buck. (Brent Carpenter, #115692, NY)

■ ■ ■ When packing a soft-sided tankbag, I pack my flip-flops on the sides of the tankbag to provide shape and support. The tankbag is sturdier, and contents are protected, and I don't worry about cruddy feet in cheap motel rooms. (Tom Knight, #98611, CA)

■ ■ ■ Make room in your luggage for a small set of jumper cables, a three-foot length of ¼" clear plastic hose, a tire-plugging kit to include fresh 'Gorilla Snot' strings and an unopened tube of rubber cement, plus a 12-volt mini-compressor. You, or someone else, will praise your foresight. (RW, TT Ed)

"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.