



## Saving Old Cell Phones and Room Keys

**W**ow, nice riding weather! Get out on the road and enjoy what's left of the riding season – maybe catch a few of the fall rallies while you're out there.

A number of members greeted me at the International Rally in West Bend, thanking the ON for Touring Tips and the nice 'Touring Tipster' pin that is given to those who's tips are published. Hey, gals and guys - the Inbox is a bit bare, so give your touring wisdom to the membership, and GET you 'Touring Tipster' pin. Send in those tips!

**|||** Instead of discarding that old cell-phone, charge it full just prior to any major road trip and pack it away in the bike. Even with the account discontinued, an old phone will usually still dial out to 911, and get you in touch with local emergency services if the need arises. If your primary cell phone is lost, stolen, discharged or damaged, now you have a backup. (Kevin Greenwald, #124358, WI)

**|||** Here's a Tip for increasing your visibility: You can often buy inexpensive reflective material (*ask for RETRO-reflective* – RW) at your local printing/graphics/sign shop. You should be able to purchase 8 1/2" X 11" sheets of the stuff in a variety of colors, and moderate cost. Using cardboard, prepare a template to fit the space you plan to fill with the reflective material, such as the rear of your luggage, or the rear fender. Be sure to insist on good-quality, water-proof material. You can also add graphics to your helmet, increasing your visibility to others even more. (Bill Jones, #36166, NC)

**|||** Knowing I would need cash and coins for tolls, while heading to

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the National, I purchased a small, clear plastic make-up case with a zippered top. I attached the case, using double-sided tape, right under my windshield. How nice to just unzip the case and pull out exactly what I needed. No more fumbling with gloves and garments, trying to slip my hand into the tankbag! My toll-money case is now a permanent fixture on my R1100RT. (Judy Gau, #11496, OH)

**|||** For those who don't want to pack a full bike cover but still want some weather protection to keep the rain and dew off a part of the bike, using a backpack rain-cover is a good alternative. They are small and inexpensive; get one with a bungee cord and cord-lock, and wind won't disturb it. They pack to the size of a camera. The usual camping-supply outlets can furnish these. (Don Minish, #86413, MN)

**|||** Forget what your mom said about nice, clean underwear! Save your old underbritches and take them touring. At the end of each day, just throw the current pair in the trash. As your tour, your luggage gets lighter! (Dennis Johnson, #89280, ND)

**|||** At the end of a day on the road, whether it is a traveling day or a touring day, Norma Faye and I wish to

enjoy a cold beer or three at the campground or motel room. One can unknowingly find oneself in a dry county at day's end. Two Tips: We carry a plastic flask of emergency Vodka, just in case. Secondly, when we pull into town, or get off the Interstate exit, the first thing we look for is a convenience store; if we can see neon beer signs in the window, it's a good bet we're not in a dry county. No beer-neons, maybe we better head on down the road a few miles.

**|||** Save those plastic motel-room keys. First, there is an urban legend which states that those keys contain some of your personal information. May be true, may not be, but why take a chance! They make excellent tools for detailing your bike, getting the polish-rag into nooks and crannies, in between cooling fins, and so forth. They also make excellent, scratch-free 'chisels' to remove stuff like decals and stubborn dead bugs from your painted surfaces. Old credit cards and expired drivers licenses also do the same job. (RW, TT Editor) ●

*"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.*