



By Paul Bachorz

Tackle Boxes and Journals

The battery tenders are unhooked, tire pressures are checked and fresh gas is in the tank. The month to get out and ride is finally here. Don't forget to fill in the mileage contest form and mail it.

Will try to squeeze in as many riding tips as are possible and save the What's In Your Tank Bag for separate pages. The tips this month are good ones to start the riding season.

Backroads is a motorcycle magazine published in the East. The editors Brian Rathjen and Shira Kamil recently returned from South America. While in Santiago, Chile, Shira had her documents stolen from her backpack. The following is taken from the February edition of *Backroads* with Shira's and *Backroads'* permission.

Before heading out, either domestically or internationally, make a list, in triplicate, which includes: driver's license number, passport number, any credit cards you take with you (including the security code number and contact phone number), ATM number and bank phone number, Social Security number, and the three credit report agency's phone numbers.

In addition, make three color photocopies of your driver's license and the picture page of your passport. Put one of each in separate safe places (not your wallet), such as a pocket of your suitcase. If something like what happened to me happens to you, you at least have some form of photo ID and all the credit card contact numbers to cancel immediately.

Also, and I learned this the hard way, ALWAYS keep your wallet/passport/important stuff in a VERY safe place, close to your body. I let my guard down, as I was in going-home mode rather than on-the-bike mode. It's akin to combat-ready; everything has a place and everything is in that place. Most importantly,

don't panic. I was incredibly lucky that I wasn't physically hurt, and I had most everything replaced within 48 hours. Bottom line is to keep your eyes open, your stuff close, and be aware. You'll never know when you're the mark.

The renowned world motorcycle traveler Dr. Gregory Frazier recommends much the same thing. Hope you never face this situation.

Take an old or cheap wallet along as a 'dummy' wallet in case you ever fall victim to robbery. Motorcyclists, despite due caution, lack the protection of quickly seeking refuge in a car or truck. We are more vulnerable to muggings, robbery, etc. Stuff a few bucks into the fake, along with expired credit cards, old photos and even an out-of-date driver's license. If confronted, hand that one over to the thief, and survive the encounter with minimal hassles.

Kevin Greenwald #124358
Sheboygan, WI

Trying to pack for a simple getaway can be a headache. Instead of spending large sums of money on waterproof bags and liners for your saddlebags, why not try what I have tried numerous times with deployments and even while kayaking? Use a gallon-size freezer bags and a standard straw. Freezer bags are heavier in construction than normal sandwich bags. Place your items in the bags and zip the freezer bag closed while the straw is still sticking out through a small opening at the zip lock. Once you have done this, aspirate the air from the bag and pinch the bag closed while pulling out the straw.

Roger Wiles #32797
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Keep a daily log. Pack your favorite pen and keeping a record of your

adventures. Keep notes on your ride and adventures and they may well pay dividends another day. Try never to be hurried and forget to write, as you may find golden moments in your future reads.

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This fire-starting tip works well at home or camping, preferably motorcycle camping. Leave the lighter fluid home. Instead, save paper egg cartons. They make great fire starters without the transporting hazards. You can place a dozen charcoals where the eggs belong and maybe break them to 1/2 doz. Sizes. Place each carton in a large zip lock bag, or flatten the empty cartons for easy storage.

Nothing beats simply lighting the paper to get a fire started. It burns slow and complete without the petrol odor. This also works with the paper cup carriers you get at coffee stops.

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I use a small fishing tackle box to hold several of the small things that I like to carry such as a small knife, ear plugs, a pen, a few dollar bills, quarters, toothpicks, bandages, business cards and lip balm.

It is secure and a lot easier than having to dig for loose items. The one I use primarily is 4 1/2" by 9" and is about 1" thick with movable dividers. These tackle boxes and can be found in any fishing tackle store or department. I like this size because it easily fits in my tank bag. Most of them are semi transparent so you can see what is inside. Depending on size they usually range in cost from \$1 to \$5.

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