



By Paul Bachorz

## ICE and Maps

**M**arch is the month when we truly turn the corner. With the spring solstice there are now more hours of light than dark. If batteries were pulled from the bikes they can lovingly be returned. Don't forget to wash out the battery tray first with a nice soapy solution. The pH of the soap will neutralize any acidic residue.

**|||** Steve Mauk, one of the premier off road leaders and riders in the East, reminds the MOA membership to put ICE in their cell phones. He encourages riders to put ICE (In Case of Emergency) as an entry and then adds a new twist.

Emergency personnel are trained to check cell phones for the ICE entry and reach the name and contact. This procedure also gives the cell phone owner the opportunity to choose who will be contacted during an emergency.

Steve's addition is to add an \* (asterisk) to ICE or "\*ICE." Using this method ICE will appear at the top of the numbers stored in your cell phone. If you like to be cautious consider adding your physician's number just in case an emergency facility needs access to your medical records. Add "\*Physician" and that entry will appear immediately under \*ICE.

*Steve Mauk #75276  
Williamstown, MA*

**|||** I've used an "Alaska Butt Pad" for years to help the leather Corbin on my old RT. Bought a "Bead Rider" at the West Bend Rally and liked the feel and excellent ventilation. It was chilly before sun-up when I left central Illinois for the Land of Enchantment Rally at Sipapu, New Mexico so I put the sheepskin under the beads. At first the beads slid me too far forward on the FJR's stock seat, but I found I could fold and double the skin to adjust the seating position. Everything

stayed in place and minor adjustments kept me from having aching bones by day's end at Amarillo, Texas. I haven't tried the skin on top yet. Underneath it keeps things warm and the bead surface allows easy movement around the seat, essential for long distance comfort. The option of these products used separately and in combination might save the cost of an aftermarket seat.

*Stu Steiner #97450  
Minier, IL*

**|||** Riding as much as I do along rural mountain roads, it is very common to encounter dogs by the side of the road that like nothing more than chasing motorcycles. The dogs will usually run after the lead bike in the line, not noticing the other motorcycles coming up, and then wreaking havoc when they give up the chase and remain in the way of the rest of the convoy. My advice is to leave a buffer between the lead rider and the rest of the line, so that the second rider will have time to notice the dogs and slow down or even stop as the dog pack regroups after its chase. The lead rider (when riding solo, this applies as well) must always remember to stay focused on the road ahead; it is very easy to get startled by the dogs into the oncoming lane or into getting on the throttle a bit too much, only to get into potentially greater trouble ahead. Simply remain calm, hold your line and let the pooches have their fun. Don't let a dog ruin your day!

*David Ashe #107082  
Puerto Rico*

**|||** Computer software is useful in planning a trip, but I still like to use paper maps to explore alternative routes and destination options. Unfortunately folding and unfolding road maps repeatedly tends to cause them to fall apart,

and they can be a pain to fold.

Photo copy sections of the maps you want to study and put the pages in clear plastic sheet protectors from an office supply store. The map pages can be filed in a three-ring notebook and poured over without wearing out. I can also plot routes and make notes on the maps with a grease pencil or overhead projector pen. The routes can be erased and remarked without damaging the map. The plastic sheet protector also provides a degree of waterproofing. When it comes time to hit the road put the maps for your trip into a report cover, and you have a compact, customized road atlas that can be easily stowed in your luggage.

*David Tubbs #111035  
Elkland, Pennsylvania*

**|||** Current motorcycle training advises solo rider to slow down to destroy the dog's tracking and then when the dog hesitates to get a new angle of attack – speed up!



*"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 "Kludge 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, Paul Bachorz (115456) at: paulbachorz@yahoo.com or 145 Juniper Drive, Ballston Spa, NY 12020 or via private message on the MOA Forum to PaulBach. If your submission is published, the ON Editorial Offices will send you a nice 'thank you' gift.*