



By Roger Wiles

Soccer Socks and Colored Towels

Hope you enjoyed West Bend! Start making plans now for the 2008 Rally in Wyoming. Here is another dose of the accumulated wisdom of the BMW family.

||| Sick and tired of your socks not staying up under your boots? Head on down to your local sporting-goods store, and pick up some soccer socks. They are designed to go up over the calf and shin-guard in your boots, and will stay up there under tough conditions. The longer socks will keep your taller boots from rubbing at the top, and will keep sweat from running all the way down inside the boot. They also help to transfer heat up the sock, and out of the boot. At about eight bucks a pair, they are a good alternative to 'motorcycle socks.' (Chris Rasmussen, #117546, WI)

||| Is your motorcycle beginning to show it's age? Often, the plated fasteners on our bikes begin to discolor and rust, even if the bike is relatively new. While newer BMWs are using more stainless steel fasteners, the plated steel ones can become a real eyesore. Here's a solution. Go to the auto-parts store and buy a bottle of universal silver, and another of gloss-black touch-up paint. Using the tiny brush in the cap, you can paint corroding fasteners to both hide the rust, and prevent it from spreading. Only a close examination of the nut or bolt-head will reveal what you've done, and the eyesores are eliminated. In fact, a pre-emptive painting of plated-steel fasteners can actually prevent the rust from beginning.

||| Here's another Tip from the TT Editor: Age, again, can make our handgrips slippery, and more difficult to grasp firmly. Fatigue increases when we

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have to really squeeze the grip to maintain control. Many (not all!) grips, particularly on BMW motorcycles, can be easily cleaned of accumulated sweat, grease and unspecified grime by spraying carb-cleaner or lacquer-thinner on a shop-rag and using same to clean the grips. This will restore the factory-new 'tacky' quality that makes the grips easier to hold. If you want, you can use a detail-brush to get the goo out of the depressions in the grips, but then you'll lose that 'Iron-Butt' patina. Regular scrubbing with soap and water during bike-wash time can prevent this crud from accumulating as quickly, but an occasional dose of the solvent-based fluids will bring new, tacky rubber into contact with our gloves. (Roger Wiles, TT Editor)

||| Carry a small roll of the blue masking tape used by painters in your tankbag. Besides a multitude of other uses, this tape makes a great sun-visor when you find yourself riding into a low-angled sun. Apply a double-layer across the upper portion of the face-shield on a full-face helmet, just above the line-of-sight. The tape is easily peeled off when no longer needed, and leaves no residue

on the shield. (James Harris, #92242, MI)

||| This makes a difference for me; when I head out on a long trip, I always review these three points within myself before setting off: 1) I will lose something. 2) Something will malfunction or break. 3) I will have at least one REALLY bad day. After thinking about these sober truths, I ask myself if I'm still eager to make the journey. So far, the answer is always yes, and as long as that is the case, I'm prepared to accept whatever troubles come my way.

||| I always carry several COLORED towels and washcloths when I travel. I use these to clean the bike in the motel parking lot. Motels always provide white bath linen, so when they see me using colored washing cloths, they know I'm not destroying their precious linens. I also carry a little block of wood to put under the sidestand, so I don't leave a divot in the motel's asphalt. Good public relations! (Tim Casey, #69865, NY) ●

"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.