



The Crab Pot

The BLUNT publication of the mid-Atlantic's
most STARP moto club

OCTOBER 2007

The Motorcycle Club Newsletter of Record

DRIVEL FROM THE CRABDicator

Kevin Long and Larry Segeleon, terrified of my threats of further poetry, have contributed to this issue! Hooray! 🏍️

KEEP YER SHIRT ON!!

And sweatshirts, and stickers, and buttons, and stuff with Jen Seidel's brilliant CRABS logo aboard, all available at www.cafepress.com/chesriders. Get yours today just in time for HalloThanksChristmaHannuK waanzaakuhYears! 🏍️

NEW HUSBAND, NEW BABY

Phil and Karen, featured as newlyweds in the September issue, already have a bouncing

new baby... BMW in the family. Yes, the stork brought Karen a brand new BMW F800ST. Mother and baby are reportedly doing just fine after what looks like a kind of damp delivery (love the Frogg Toggs). 🏍️



The new addition to the Ager family.

CRABS Christmas Party!
SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER
3 PM UNTIL ??

Don't bring anything, just a festive attitude.

**We'll have the usual crap:
food, tree, train, fire, and
annoying little white dog.**

**2116 Rosebay Way
Leonardtwn, MD 20650
N38°15'04.3" W76°36'44.5"**

CRABS PRODUCT EVALUATION

By Kevin Long

The Gear:

Fieldsheer Four Season Mesh Pants

First Gear Mesh-Tex Gloves

Oxtar Air-Tech Boots

As some of you know, like Mark, our esteemed Head Crabbie, I fritter away many of my weekends and a vast majority of my vacation time refereeing professional and amateur bicycle races on my motorcycle. This September I was fortunate enough to be asked to help with the inaugural Tour of Missouri (www.tourofmissouri.com/), a 6-day stage race starting in Kansas City and finishing in St Louis.

When I first signed on for this event, I had only been to Missouri once, having been to Leavenworth for work and that barely qualified as a visit, being the overworked and underpaid federal employee that I am. So, a little research was in order; in particular, I was concerned about the weather, roads, hills (or lack of), and whatever else I could find (like wineries).

On the weather: did you know that the average daily high temperature for Missouri in September is just 80 degrees with an average low of 61? Sounded like GREAT riding weather to me – I was getting pumped! Just to double check, I called a friend who has been living in KC for the past 26 years for some input; Clark's response was "The weather is great – the temperature is down to the high 80's and low 90's, and the humidity is down to almost 90%! You'll love it." Ummm,, Excuse me? Humidity is DOWN to 90%???

Ok, so I see that my typical riding outfit, being a little dated and black, may need to be upgraded. I started looking at some of my favorite online retailers: the ever-popular new/used site www.newenough.com, the also-great www.ridegear.com, and www.motorcyclecloseouts.com. Not owning a B(ike)M(ade)W(eird), I didn't feel that I was really entitled to wear the BMW logo gear and my wallet thankfully agreed: as nice as the B(ig)M(oney)W(asted) stuff is, I just can't justify spending that much on toys.

I had some ideas and given the expected weather, I really wanted to stay as cool and well ventilated as possible. After hours and hours of exhaustive research, I came across several items that I thought would be perfect for the trip: Oxtar Air-Tech boots, Fieldsheer Four-Season mesh pants, and FirstGear Mesh-Tex gloves.

E-mails and phone calls were exchanged and I discovered that RideGear gives a 10% discount to first time buyers. As they had the best price on the Oxtar boots, I gave them the business. Three days and \$194 later, they were on my porch when I got home: <http://www.ridegear.com/rg/item/F-55271/Oxtar/Air-Tech-XCR-Touring-Boot.html>

The boots were immediately comfortable while walking around the house, but a little loose: the salesman had convinced me to go with the size 12's, even tho' I normally wear an 11 1/2. I couldn't immediately tell that there was anything different about them, and as hard as I tried, I just couldn't feel the breeze between my toes. Seemed like a test ride was in order!

I had also placed an order for the FieldSheer Four Season mesh pants (in silver);

http://www.motorcyclecloseouts.com/sport/mesh+motorcycle+jackets/fieldsheer_four+season+mesh+over_pants, and these arrived the next day from Motorcycle Closeouts. I was a little concerned about dealing with them, as I had had a minor problem with them the previous year (that was very well resolved, but too late for me to use the item when I needed it), but as they're located in Kansas City, I figured I'd chance it – I'd be there in a couple weeks and could return it if needed.

Now I'm pumped: the Tour of Missouri is only a couple of weeks away, I have the time off plus a few extra days to visit my friend Clark, and I have decided that an IronButt SaddleSore would be the perfect way to get to KC! But, a test of bike, rider and equipment is in order, so off to work I go, nattily attired in my FieldSheer Four Season mesh pants (in silver, of course!) and the Oxtar Air-Tech boots.

The temperature that morning was about 70 degrees, and I decided to ride my V Strom, as I was taking that out west; my first impression of the mesh pants (sans liner) was "WOW! These things really breathe!" and that on an unfaired motorcycle they may be a little cool in the AM, but perfect for the afternoon slug home.

I was immediately comfortable with them and continue to be happy with them, but I do carry a pair of waterproof overpants, as I have not had the opportunity to test the water/wind-proof liner yet. My ride to KC, and the time I spent in MO reinforced my first impression and I continue to be very pleased with

them: the fit was perfect, and although the color doesn't exactly match my silver V Strom, combined with my silver and black Joe Rocket mesh jacket, I felt I was making quite the fashion statement, and I was cool and ventilated! OK, so color matched to a silver bike may be a little gay, but I was comfortable, dammit!

As for the Oxtar boots, once I realized exactly what they were intended for, I became more and more pleased with them; you won't feel the breeze on your tootsies, but they did seem to provide ventilation/breatheability and my feet were noticeably cooler at the end of each day. They are very waterproof, and I tested them by standing in a 2" or 3" deep puddle for several minutes, and while caught in a light rain – no problems there, and I'd recommend/buy them again.

To complete my ensemble, I stopped in to the Motorcycle Closeouts store: very nice guys, helpful sales staff that are not intrusive, and a lot of STUFF! I had looked at the First Gear mesh gloves online

http://www.motorcyclecloseouts.com/sport/motorcycle+gloves/firstgear_mesh-tex+summer+gloves), but as we all know, gloves are a very personal item, and just can't be ordered without trying them on first. Fortunately, my buddy Clark only lived about 10 minutes from their shop! The gloves fit OK, but the sizing seemed off just a bit, and needed just a bit of stretching to get onto my XL mitts, but for \$32 I felt it was worth the effort. I can honestly say that these are the most well ventilated gloves I have ever owned.

I like the gauntlet-style gloves, but

it didn't seem to affect airflow into and through my jacket sleeves. Despite the odd sizing, I would purchase these again, but only if they're on sale, and after you've tried them on.

There were a couple of items that I saw in the store that are now on-line that I thought might interest some of you, especially if you like to carry a water bottle:

http://www.motorcyclecloseouts.com/extras/motorcycle+luggage/fields/heer_clip-on+water+bottle+holder#

The clip I saw was a fairly heavy ballistic nylon material that possibly could be sewn onto a tank bag, very similar to this:

http://www.motorcyclecloseouts.com/extras/motorcycle+luggage/fields/heer_accessory+belt+clip

Enjoy! 🏍️



Triumph Rocket III Touring

"RETIREMENT PLANNING"

By Larry "The Bike" Segeleon

So some of us are getting older and there may be a time when riding will become less than enjoyable. The sprit will be willing, but the body just is not in the condition it should be to muscle an 800 to 900 lb motorcycle around safely. Whatever shall we do? Fighting the family dog for the window as the wife drives us down the road just does not appeal to me for some reason.

We have or we should have been planning for our retirement years. Getting our finances in order for when we retire, getting our homes ready now so we can enjoy retirement later, etc. Our wills have been processed and last resting place secured. How about planning for what we will be riding? Just because we will be up in years, we do not want to stop riding; however, we may not be physically able to maneuver a large motorcycle, so what shall we do?

Susie and I went to Warsaw, VA and test rode a Trike. No not a Boss Hoss 57 Chevy trike. Not a chopped down VW trike. Not some conversion trike where you take the rear end off your motorcycle and back it up to two wheels and a trunk. This is an all-new concept with state of the art technology. It was awesome! An unbelievable ride. We think we might get one of these instead of hanging a sidecar off the side of our Geezer Glide.

Here are some of the technologies used: Vehicle Stability System, Anti-lock Braking System, Traction Control System, Stability, Control System with, Roll-Over Mitigation,

Dynamic Power Steering. All for under \$14,000.

So what is this miracle to modern technology? It is the BRP Can-Am Spyder. <http://spyder.brp.com/> brought to you by the same people that make Ski-Doo, Sea-Doo, Can-Am ATV's, Rotax engines, and Johnson and Evinrude outboard engines. Check out the site then go take it for a ride. It is a very new concept for three-wheel riding and it rides like no other three-wheeled vehicle you have ever ridden.

It cannot replace the feeling of being on a motorcycle, but you will be in the wind and it will keep you from fighting the dog for the window.

Scooters – in - the – wind 🏍️

DON'T FORGET ST. COLUMBANUS!

Patron Saint Of Motorcycling
The Vatican has officially endorsed an early Irish saint, Columbanus of Bobbio as the patron saint of motorcyclists. He was born on the Carlow/Wicklow border in the year 543 ad, and died at the monastery he founded in Bobbio, in what is now Northern Italy in 615 AD, after many years of travelling around Europe. His bones still lie interred in his church there.

A handsome, rugged kind of chap, he left Ireland to escape the clutches of lascivious women who were irresistibly attracted to him. According to the biography of his life written by Jonas, one of the many miracles attributed to him involved the multiplication of bread and beer, as follows:

"A while after, Columban went to the monastery of Fontaines and found sixty brethren hoeing the ground and preparing the fields for

the future crop. When he saw them breaking up the clods with great labor, he said, 'May the Lord prepare for you a feast, my brethren.'

Hearing this the attendant said, 'Father, believe me, we have only two loaves and a very little beer.' Columban answered, 'Go and bring those.' The attendant went quickly and brought the two loaves and a little beer. Columban, raising his eyes to heaven, said, 'Christ Jesus, only hope of the world, do Thou, who from five loaves satisfied five thousand men in the wilderness, multiply these loaves and this drink.'

Wonderful faith! All were satisfied and each one drank as much as he wished. The servant carried back twice as much in fragments and twice the amount of drink. And so he knew that faith is more deserving of the divine gifts than despair, which is wont to diminish even what one has." 🏍️

His Feast day is 23 November!



On the shelf of a gourmet food shop in Lewes, Delaware.

Upcoming dates:

CRABS Christmas: 16 Dec

DC Moto Show: 11-13 Jan

The Road ID

By Mark Byers

Originally in *BACKROADS*

If you're like me, you try to find gifts that are small, practical, inexpensive, and (most importantly) easily acquired at the last minute! The RoadID fills all those needs.

As moto pilots we have to be prepared for the worst, so proper protective gear is a must. But while many of us think of pre-crash protection (ATGATT), not many of us think about post-crash protection in the form of a readily-accessible form of ID. If we are found unconscious, proper presentation of our name, next of kin, our blood type, and whether we have any allergies or other sensitivities is vital to EMT's. Searching through wallets for info is time-consuming and requires moving your injured body.

That's where RoadID comes in: they make five products that allow you to put six lines of 23 characters each on quickly-found wearable items. They have a shoe ID, a shoe pouch that adds the ability to carry a key, a neoprene ankle ID band, a nylon wrist ID band, and a neck ID that looks like a highly-polished military dog tag. Originally designed for runners and cyclists, the RoadID has great utility for the moto community.

I got both the wrist and the dog-tag versions. The dog tag is a lot higher quality than military tags: the characters are laser-etched instead of stamped and the finish is highly-polished stainless. You can even get any one of 170 images etched on the reverse side of your RoadID and I'm sure your corporate logo is fair game

if the number of orders is right (CRABS logo anyone?). The dog tag comes with a chain and rubber silencers are available for a little more.

The wrist ID is a simple nylon band to which a small, matte-finish, engraved stainless tag has been affixed. The band closes by virtue of Velcro and the stitching around the perimeter is even reflective! It is comfortable to wear and is available in a number of colors to match your style. Different sizes are available to fit everything from stick-people to iron pumpers.

Ordering is easy, especially online where they lead you through the process and give you multiple chances to correct yourself if you make a mistake. Prices are simple: it's \$19.99 for everything except the dog tag, which is \$24.99.

So, if you're looking for a stocking stuffer for your favorite moto pilot (or pillion) and you want something small, quick, cheap, and easy that may also save their lives, check out RoadID at www.RoadID.com. 🏍️

The item above makes a great Christmas gift. I use the wrist model when I am cycling and the dog tag when I'm motorcycling (I don't like stuff around my neck when I'm on the bicycle – just a preference). Both items are still in good shape after a year of wear. Betsy uses the dog tag version (with a paw print graphic on it). I really recommend these.

I also use another gizmo they made me wear at the track: it's a little black, stick-on pocket you attach to the outside of your helmet. It carries a folded slip of paper with all your medical info on it. Cycle Gadgets has them, I believe. 🏍️