

GWRRA Chapter CA1-R



*Packing A GoldWing
for a
Long Trip*



*By
George and Jackie Neuman*

Reprinted with permission of the authors. All rights reserved.

Packing a GoldWing For a long trip



Foreword

This special publication is the result of several requests for what and how to pack for a long trip on a GoldWing without hauling a trailer. There is no **way** that all this would fit into our monthly newsletter without dragging it on for many months with several ... to be continued's... which gets rather tedious. So here it is, all in one, containing as much information as we can offer from our own experience and from as many sources as we could find.

Loading the bike for a long trip, say a month or more, is not much different from loading for a weeklong trip. You just have to plan on doing laundry a few times and replace consumables, as you need them. Also, get the bike serviced as the miles roll by to be sure that tires, bearings, brakes and fluids are all up to snuff.

Several reputable sources notwithstanding, if you need to pull a trailer you're taking too much stuff - unless you're doing some serious camping or rallying. A longer stay in an unimproved campground certainly requires a lot more gear than we're going to have to make it pleasant. But, the one or two night campouts at KOAs and the like, enroute to other places can be handled quite well with what we propose to take along.

Assumptions – This was written for a 1500 GoldWing. 1800s have a bit less room.

1) Most nights will be spent in motels interspersed with one or two night campouts. The trip will undoubtedly include a variety of weather conditions and camping will be limited to fair weather overnight stops (if possible) with locally purchased meals.

2) Riding jeans, chaps, waterproof riding boots, riding jackets, gloves and helmets will be worn (states that don't require helmets notwithstanding) and not stored while riding. When it's really hot, riding jackets can be stored on top of the rear trunk bag under the bungee cords. But for safety they should be worn at all times. This argues for jackets that are well designed with adjustable ventilation openings. Water mist, cool snakes and spray bottles can also be used on a neckerchief, in the helmet lining, and the jacket lining to cool things off. Plan to stop once an hour for a few minutes to stretch and relax. You and your co-rider will both benefit from the break.

3) The bike is prepared and serviced for the trip. Tires are good and there are no known service problems.

4) Remember that you are not going to the moon and that anything you forgot or didn't take along is probably available at a store in any town or city.

5) If a special occasion requires special clothing that will likely be worn only once, consider mailing them to the destination ahead of time (like to a friend's or relative's house) and never carry them on the bike at all. They can send them back to you later.

Tools and Spare Parts

Don't get carried away with tools, spare parts and gadgets if you are not inclined to use them. If you are not a do-it-yourself fix-it person then it's better to just carry the standard tool kit, GWRRA Gold Book, a cellular phone, a Credit card and a Honda Road Riders or Motorcycle Towing Service (MTS) card for emergencies.

For the more mechanically inclined, load the maintenance essentials into the bottoms of the two side bags. Don't take things that can wait to be replaced at any dealership. Small zip-lock bags are great for storing and keeping things dry like a small roll of electrical tape, a small butane powered soldering iron (from Radio Shack). Butane refill, wire, solder, fuses for the accessories that use different sizes, a small tube of hand cleaner, some assorted screws, nuts and bolts (all the wrong sizes). Fit the padlock and chain, extra tools like a small 3/8 drive socket set, allen wrench kit, air hose and tire gauge, tire plugging kit and spare parts into those recesses in the floor of the side bags and keep things as flat as possible. Cover them with small towel rags that can be used for cleaning hands, the windshield, helmet face shields and glasses.

Documentation

The bike documentation and various forms such as: insurance, registration, extended warranty, accident information, GWRRA, MTS and AMA cards, can all be carried in a zip lock bag. Store it in the left side bag under the rubber hold down strap that holds the GW tool kit and owner's manual. If the trip includes Canada or Mexico, a Passport or other proof of citizenship might also be included. (Although a current driver license and picture ID will usually suffice to get you back into the U.S.)

A can of flat-fix tire fill can also be placed against the back wall of that area with the fill hose held in place by that same rubber strap.

Rain Gear

The left side bag contains a very lightweight nylon gym bag that holds the rain gear. It rides on top of a base layer of tools and spare parts. If your normal riding

suit is water proof you can ignore this section and decide how to use all this storage space for other things. However, consider that the rain gear described will also be useful off the bike when sight seeing in the rain. Alternative - a small folding umbrella.

Rain gear consists of: His and Her two piece (jacket and pants) plastic coated nylon rain suits (jackets have fold-down hidden hoods), plastic coated water proof work gloves large enough to fit over light weight riding gloves and we'll assume that your boots are waterproof or you'll need to carry rubber totes to slip over the leaky boots.

This works well for us but there are many variations on the theme. If the weather gets cold the rain gear serves as a good windbreak over the riding clothes. This does not completely fill the left side compartment and there is room for a fanny pack, purse, camera, an extra pair of shoes, or other small stuff. Folded electric vests can also reside here for the cold weather eventuality.

Camping Gear

The camping gear goes into the bag that is carried on top of the trunk luggage rack. It consists of: two light weight down sleeping bags that fit into stuff bags roughly 6' diameter and 8" long, two 3/4 length ground sleeping pads that roll up into 3" rolls about 18" long, a two man nylon dome tent that stuffs into a bag about 5" diameter and 10" long. Line the outer bag with a large plastic trash bag and then load the items into it to keep them dry. The ground tarp, a sheet of plastic about 6'x 9' is folded to fit on the floor of the rear trunk. The tent poles fit diagonally inside across the rear trunk from corner to corner above the floor. Use the space under the poles to fit in things like flip-flops, sunscreen, and other, small items. If the poles are too long, strap them onto the rear trunk rack underneath the bag. A zip-lock bag with tent pegs, tie downs, matches, plastic forks, spoons and knives, fold-up cups, 10' rope, handi-wipes, and a small wad of TP fits into the right side bag nestled among the tools and spare parts. A few extra plastic trash bags stored flat in either side bag come in handy for camping and to waterproof the bag on the luggage rack in case (when) the first bag rips.

Clothing and Personal Items

Probably the most controversial subject is what clothing to take or not to take. I'm not going to touch that except to say that clothing and personal items must be kept small, lightweight and if possible should do double duty. Take clothing like a sweat shirt that you can sleep in, a reversible jacket that is nice looking with any outfit, things that are all basically color coordinated, nothing that must be dry cleaned (except your leathers), walking shoes that look nice and are comfortable. Clothing should be selected to reduce bulk. Instead of boxer shorts use small bikini briefs, two or three light weight T-shirts or nylon or poplin shirts instead of heavy cotton, one spare pair of riding pants and one light weight pair of convertible shorts/pants and shorts that may also be swimming trunks.

Ladies take a headscarf instead of a hat. Don't forget the usual stuff like handkerchiefs, 3-4 pairs of socks, etc.

Small battery operated electric shavers that are half the size of most standard models and do an acceptable job are available from Panasonic, Braun and Remington. Small hair dryers, curling irons and other appliances are also available for the traveler. Take cosmetics and vitamin pill containers that are miniaturized and contain just enough for the trip. Share items such as toothpaste to reduce duplication in the toiletry bags. Use small travel sizes of toothpaste, after shave, deodorant, make-up items, etc. Plan on using the hotel shampoo and skin lotion and snitch one of their small containers to carry when camping. A small cake of soap from the motel can also replenish the supply for camping.

Split the space available so that the rider's clothing is in the right side bag and the co-rider's in the rear trunk. Since this has the larger bag, it can also hold some over-flow. Using lightweight nylon gym bags or the bags that come with the bike make it easy. Flashlight, Batteries to fit to take everything you need for overnight into the motel. Try to organize things so that only one or two bags must be removed from the bike at check-in time at the motel.

The motel bathroom sink is an obvious place for the quick overnight laundry. Many motels and campgrounds have laundry facilities for more serious washing chores. Plan on buying laundry soap there. Carry a good supply of quarters for campground showers, laundromats, soap dispensers and an occasional parking meter. We find that in most cases money is the universal lubricant and problem solver.

Miscellaneous

The plastic windshield cleaner bottle and a small (1Pint) potable water bottle fit nicely into the front of either side bag. The bike cover in its stuff bag and the first aid kit fit neatly into the back recess areas of each of the side bags along with a few small towel rags. The small flashlight fits on the floor of the rear trunk along with a spare helmet communication cable and a few bungee cords. Vest heater cords are stored in one of the hard trunk side compartments. Cassette tapes are in the other one.

A 5" aluminum plate for parking on sand or gravel is attached to the left wall of the rear trunk with a Velcro patch (when the tank bag is being used the aluminum plate is stored there for easier access). The sides of the rear trunk around the clothing container are used to store extra riding gloves, hats and scarves as needed.

The tank bag is used to store and display the maps. It is easily removable so you can take it with you when leaving the bike out of sight or over night. The camcorder, its batteries, charger and tapes are accommodated in the central compartment. The side compartments of the tank bag are great for the cellular

phone, still camera, batteries and film. Use small items of clothing, the washcloths and towels to pad the more delicate items.

The only places we haven't used yet are the front storage compartments in the fairing. The right locking one holds AAA, MTS, AMA, GWRRA cards, stamps, extra checks, spare house keys, and a list of phone numbers and addresses. The left one holds a small utility flashlight, extra copy of the emergency information form in a small zip-lock bag and another spare pen. A small MP3 player can be in here for the 1800s.

Depending on the likelihood of a rip-off, such as someone stealing the removable trunk and tank bags, we might rearrange the tank bag contents so that expensive cameras are locked in the right side bag and more of the clothing is stored in the tank bag. The camping gear can stay on the trunk rack. Consider what you can get along without and/or replace most easily and store accordingly.

Personal items in the fanny pack are a matter of taste. I like to carry a Swiss army knife of moderate size with a corkscrew. Also a small tin of Excedrin for the perennial headache, some life savers for a dry mouth, and eye drops for dry eyes. If the trip includes sight seeing or shopping, some travelers' checks, the still camera and batteries also go into the pack. When not worn, the fanny pack stores in the left side bag.

What to Take

Bike Essentials

Aluminum Plate - 1/8" thick by 5" square side stand pad
Bike Cover - Light weight nylon touring cover w/stuff bag
Bungee Cords. 3 or 4 about 2 – 3 foot long
Cards - towing service and discounts - MTS, AAA, GWRRA, AMA
Documentation - registration, warranty, proof of insurance
Emergency Information form - Personal and Medical Info.
Emergency Flares or reflector
Extra Tools - 3/8" socket set, Allen wrenches
First Aid Kit
Flat-Fix Tire Fill - 1 can medium size
Fuses - Bike, Accessories
GWRRA Gold Book -
Handi-wipes, hand cleaner
Spare bike and house keys
Jumper cables – 6' light duty
Padlock and chain - 3-4' long
Spare helmet communications cable
Spare Parts, assorted nuts and bolts
Tire Plug Kit
Tire gauge and air hose (means to fill tire on 1800)
Windshield Plastic Polish

Personal Items

Contact lenses cases and cleaning/storage fluids - store with toiletries
Curling iron - mini
Extra Checks! Traveler's checks, Credit cards
Flip-flops for the pool or beach
Hair dryer - mini
Phone number and address list, mailing labels
Prescription drugs - store with toiletries
Shaver - battery electric or razor
Spare prescription glasses/sunglasses
Sunblock, lip balm
Toiletries - 1 small bag each - his/hers
Vitamins - store with toiletries
Writing pad and pen for log

Clothing

Bathing suits - his and hers
Blouses - 2-3
Convertible pants – w/removable bottoms that make into shorts
Electric vests/clothing and cables
Extra riding gloves - his and hers

Extra Riding Pants - his/hers
Handkerchiefs
Hats - his and hers (Scarf/Kerchief)
Light jackets - his and hers riding/dressy
Neckerchief - cool snake
Rain Gear - his and hers Jackets/Pants, Gloves, small umbrella
Shirts - 2-3 long sleeves, 2 short sleeve
Skirt, slacks, shorts
Sleepwear, his/hers, PJ/gown, nothing ??
Socks - 3 riding, 1-2 dress, his and hers
Sweatshirts - his and hers, double for sleep when camping
Underwear 4 - 6 sets, his and hers
Walking shoes - his and hers

Camping

Eating utensils – knives, forks, spoons, cups, small bowls
Ground tarp - 6x9 plastic sheet
Handi-wipes
Hunting knife in sheath. 4” blade
Mattress pads - 42” x 18” (Thermarest)
Roll of Quarters for washers, showers, etc.
Rope clothes line - 10’
Sleeping bags - light weight down
Soap – Toilet
Tent poles
Tent w/rain fly
Tent pegs and tie down ropes
Towels 2 small
TP, paper towels
Washcloths - 2

Miscellaneous

Book, reading matter
Calling cards - Personal, GWRRA, Business
Cameras, still/video – film/memory chips/tape, batteries/charger
Cassette tapes – prerecorded, MP3 Player w/memory chips
Cellular Phone - w/charger or adapter for bike connection
Fanny Pack or small purse
Flashlight, batteries
Insect repellent spray, insect bite tincture
Maps and Hotel directory
Mini-tape recorder, tape/batteries
Pens - 2 - 3
Spare keys for house and bike
Stamps, return address labels

Sun block
Swiss Army knife w/corkscrew
Water Bottle - 1 Pint for Drinking and Windshield rinsing/washing

Where It's Stored

Left Side Bag

Documentation - registration, warranty, insurance
Emergency Information form, with bike documents
Electric Vests
Fanny Pack or small purse
First aid kit - band-aids, disinfectant for minor cuts
Flat-Fix Tire Fill
Fuses - Bike, Accessories (in zip-lock bag)
Pad lock and heavy chain to lock front wheel
Rain Gear - his and hers (B)
Spare Parts (in zip-lock bag)
Water Bottle - for Drinking and Windshield washing – 1 Pint

Right Side Bag - His

Bike Cover
Dress pants – lightweight convertible or shorts (B)
Eating utensils - knives, forks, spoons, cups (in zip-lock bag)
Emergency Flares or reflector
Small extra Tool Box
Hand Cleaner - Tube
Handi-wipes
Handkerchiefs (B)
Insect repellent spray, insect bite tincture
Jumper cables
Small hunting knife in sheath/Swiss Army knife - moderate size w/corkscrew
Matches - small box wooden (in zip-lock bag)
Neckerchief (B)
Shaver - electric or razor (B)
Shirts - 2 long sleeve. 2 short sleeve (B)
Sleepwear - ?
Socks -3 riding, 2 dress (B)
Tire gauge and air hose – 1500 only
Tire Plug Kit (in case or zip-lock bag) tire fill CO2 Cartridges - 1800
TP, paper towels - small quantity of each folded flat
Underwear - 4 - 6 sets (B)
Windshield Polish and another 1 Pint water bottle if there's room

Rear Trunk - Hers plus overflow

Aluminum Plate 1/8" thick X 5" square for Side stand Pad
Bathing suits - his and hers (B)
Blouses - 2-3 (B)
Book/reading matter (B)
Bungee Cords, 3-4
Curling iron (B)
Toiletries - 1 small bag for each (B)
Extra riding gloves - his and hers
Flip-flops for the pool or beach
Ground tarp - 6x9 plastic sheet
Hair dryer - mini model (B)
Hats his and hers
Headset cables - spare
Jeans/long pants - (B)
Light jackets his and hers (B)
Slacks/shorts (B)
Sleepwear - 1(B)
Sun block, Lip balm (B)
Sweatshirts - his and hers (B)
Tent poles
Underwear - 4-6 panties, 1 bra (B)
Vitamins, prescription drugs in toiletry bags (B)
Walking shoes - his and hers (B)
Writing pad and pen for log (B)

Trunk Rack Bag - Held on by two bungee cords and snaps on the sides

Mattress pads - 42" x 18" (Thermarest)
Rope clothes line - 10' length
Sleeping bags - lightweight down - his/hers
Soap (in zip-lock bag)
Tent w/rain fly
Tent pegs and tie down ropes (in zip-lock bag)

Tank Bag - Held on with Velcro at sides and front and rear

Cameras. Still/video – film or digital memory chips, tape, batteries
Cellular Phone w/power adapter for cigarette lighter socket (in Fairing)
GWRRA Gold Book
Maps and Hotel directory
Mini-tape recorder, tape/batteries (in zip-lock bag)
Towels and washcloths - small 2 ea - pack around delicate items

Left side Trunk Compartment

Cassette tapes (1500 only) (in zip-lock bag)

Right Side Trunk Compartment

Electrical Cables for Heated clothing

Front Right Fairing Locking Compartment

GWRRR. AMA, AAA, MTS cards,

Phone number and address list

Extra Checks, roll of quarters

Spare Keys – house (hide a spare bike key someplace too)

Front Left Fairing Compartment

Small note pad

Spare Sunglasses

Pen/pencil

Extra small Flashlight

MP3 player – small size (1800 only) – plugs into aux. jack on radio

(B) - Packed in Honda luggage bags or equivalent

References

- 1) “Rider’s Complete Guide To Motorcycle Touring”
Dick Blom and the Editors of Rider Magazine
Copyright 1981
- 2) “Trip Planning and Preparation”
Desmond Adventures,
By Tom Desmond
- 3) “Packing For Two People on a GoldWing For a Long Trip” Region “G” Rally,
1996
John and Judy Wickersham

Ten Commandments For The Happy Tourer*

- I. Thou shalt not expect to find things precisely as they are at home, for thou hast left home to find things different.
- II. Thou shalt not take anything too seriously, for a carefree mind is the basis for a good trip and vacation.
- III. Thou shalt not let other people get on thy nerves for thou art paying good money to enjoy thyself.
- IV. Thou shalt not worry, for he that worrieth hath little joy.
- V. Thou shalt not judge all the people of an area by one person with whom you have had a problem.
- VI. Blessed are those who can wait and smile, for they shall surely enjoy themselves.
- VII. Thou shalt do somewhat as the natives do.
- VIII. Thou shalt carry thy documents and permits for a man without his documents is a man without a country.
- IX. Thou art welcome in every land; treat thy host with respect and thou shalt be an honored guest.
- X. Bless thy tour guides and co-riders for surely they deserveth it.

* Paraphrased from the instructions to participants on Tom Desmond's Alpentour.