

## Camping Gear List (Part 2)

By Mike Van Horn

Date: 03/04/09

Equipment:

New riders to the camping scene can easily become overwhelmed with all the camping equipment available today, and can it be a bit frustrating when you start thinking about everything you will need to carry on the bike. One of the most difficult parts of a camping trip is deciding "What to Take".

So, what should I take with me on my Motorcycle Campout? First let's talk about how much room you have. In my experience, there are 3 categories of Moto-Campers. You probably fall into one of these categories.

1. Single or 2 up, on motorcycle with Saddlebags and Seat Area to strap things to.
2. Single or 2 up, on motorcycle with a cargo trailer in tow.
3. Single or 2 up, on motorcycle with a Pop-Up camper.

Let's talk about each one, and then we will discuss what is really needed to go camping.

### Category 1:

I call this category, Rough Riders! They can pack all their necessities in the saddlebags, a soft back pack, or on put everything into a bag, and bungee-cord it to the rear rack or the seat behind them. These "Rough Riders" are not able to carry a lot, but they can still enjoy the camping experience, by taking a minimum of gear.

### Category 2:

More experienced campers realize that there are items on the list that, "It sure would be nice to have", and usually makes the camping experience even more enjoyable. Adding a Cargo trailer to your motorcycle can really make your adventure more fun, and last a lot longer. Now you can take things like: blow up mattresses, pillows, larger tents, cooking gear, and food, which can really cut down on cost of your trip, because you will have those items with you, and not have to buy food, or stay in an expensive Hotel / Motel.

### Category 3:

These are the elite of the moto-campers. They probably all started out with just the motorcycle, and then added a cargo trailer, and now they can afford the pop-up trailers. This group of campers has discovered what works, and what don't, when camping, and have decided to take the plunge, and join the league of big boy campers. These smaller pop-ups are easy to tow, and many enjoy the fact that you have a real bed, and are off the ground completely. Most pop-up campers have a larger cargo area and generally are able to carry more stuff.

After you figure out which category you fall into, it's time to decide what to take with you. All items fall into 3 categories: Needs or Wants, and Luxury items.

Needs are the very basic items like: Sleeping bag, Tent, Small flashlight, etc....

Wants are all of the extra things that make the trip more comfortable.

Luxury items are everything else that are just neat to have with you.

Keep in mind... depending on which category you find yourself in, the really tough part is where will it all fit? Remember one simple rule, "Think small", and Don't panic, it will all come together, and with each camping trip you take, your packing and decision-making will improve. No matter how many years a rider has camped, they always find it a challenge to balance the size, weight, and positions of all their equipment.

On the [checklist](#), you will find a list of Camping items. Copy this file to your computer, and keep it handy whenever you are planning your next camping trip.

Simply print out the list a day or so ahead of time, then check off the things you all ready have, and go get the things you don't have. This will help you plan your trip, and you will know that you are prepared to go camping.

In Part 3 we will discuss packing, compressing, and small things!