

# "ALASKA 101"

- Ben Ramos

## Introduction

- Going to Alaska is the trip of a lifetime - accessible from your driveway.
- It's not as difficult as any other long adventure – if you're prepared.
- An "Adventure bike" not require but will make your trip a lot easier.
- Will be the adventure ride you think it is.

## Planning

- High season for everything: three-month window of June to August - prepare to spend \$\$\$.
- The Mile Post 2012.
- Alaska By Motorcycle by Dr. Gregory Frazier.
- Alaska Marine Highway System.
- Ferry - Bellingham to Haines: 3 day trip - limited schedules - Need to book in advance - deck .camping - no bike access - bring tie downs - pricey but saves time and wear and tear.
- ALCAN or Cassiar Highway
- Denali Highway to Wrangell Mountains - great option.
- Dalton Highway - sections paved - truckers prefer dirt - trucks rule - throw lots of rocks.
- Prudhoe Bay will require gas planning, can get gas can at Cold Foot - camp - take van .
- Summer Solstice Party in Anchorage.
- Service (Oil Change/tires) Thompson's Eagles Claw / BMW Anchorage - make appt in advance.
- Cell phones work, international rates in BC/Yukon (SPOT a great addition).
- Whitehorse, YT a wild west town filled with crime and tourists - book in advance, camping charges per tent not spot.
- Hyder, AK - a great stop.

## Bike Prep

- Skid plates, hand guards, headlight guards, dual purpose tires (like a Tourance) a must.
- Prep bike for additional accessories long before the trip for break in.

## "ALASKA 101"

- Ben Ramos

### Packing

- Don't over think - tendency to over pack
- Pack usual trip items: tire repair kit (include an inner tube), air pump, tool kit, gas siphon, first aid kit, etc.
- Waterproof gear including gloves and socks - you will ride in the rain.
- Heated clothing.
- Long underwear.
- Skip the guns and the bear spray - won't help you getting thru the borders.
- Water - most free flowing water is *not* recommended.
- Dehydrated food.
- Anchorage a real city - everything you need to replace or forgot is there.

### Borders

- Canadian border - a series of questions. BUT Alaska border is very serious - after questioning incredibly friendly.

### The Ride

- Enjoy - plan your day, take your time, and adjust to how the day unfolds.
- RV's, trailers, and tour busses are everywhere.
- Be nice when passing - you will pass them again and again - limited places to stop.
- Animals are everywhere – “there's one; there's another” - roads easier to traverse.
- Construction, construction, construction season – (Get the lollipop girl's attention to get to the front.)
- You will ride in the dirt - whether you want to or not (full dress Harleys did it!)
- Roller coaster road - camouflage gravel – permafrost.
- Metal grate bridges (wood at Arctic Circle).
- Gas generally not a problem – but get it before you need it.
- Ride with the weakest rider in mind.

**Camping**

- Three-season, 2-person tent at minimum.
- Zero-degree sleeping bag.
- Eye mask.
- Bug spray.
- Fragrance free deodorant, soap, detergent.
- Wood available - Free in BC and Yukon (may need an ax).
- Garbage cans have food storage bins in the back.
- Again, water - most free flowing water is not recommended.

**Reference Tools**

- Handout