

OFF-ROAD EXPLORER



With 2008 done and dusted it was time to take a closer look at the forum pages on the www.offroadexplorer.com web site. Now, I have to admit that I'm not worthy. Some of the trips members have posted have been awesome

and had a great impact on the site. So in recognition I thought we'd hand out some Off Road Explorer Web Awards for 2008!

Webmaster of the Year: Graham Whitehead (whitey) - writing stories for TRAIL ZONE, travelling and building web pages is pretty much a full-time job for me, so finding time to keep a watchful eye over the forum pages hasn't been easy. In the early days of the forum whitey contacted me to offer a helping hand and when he described himself as an 'aging computer geek', that was good enough for me. What's more, he's always quick to greet new members and offer some sound advice.

Best Hardcore Story of the Year: Greg Aldis (atgreg) - (You can find this story at offroadexplorer.com Forum Index >> Been there? Done That? >> The OffCenter Rally) Greg is the moderator of the Australian regional forum on the international www.advrider.com website and it's great to see he's one of many sharing the love (so to speak) with offroadexplorer.com. He posted some great photos of the OCR's characters, scenery, bikes and the people who ride them. But who could forget the pics of a KTM going up in flames in the middle of the scrub after spearing off the track. Fortunately the rider was OK. Pictures of the melted KTM brought tears to my eyes. Greg also has a classic Honda Africa Twin, which I'm sure he'll be buried with, as I doubt he'll ever part with it.

The Most Posts: drussdog - this is one of the most enthusiastic people I've ever met. Not that he's externally hypo but he's always keen to organize a ride and get out there when he can. I first rode with drussdog in Wollongong early last year and since joining he has been active on the ORE forum and is always prepared to explore as much countryside as possible on his DR650. His attitude to get out there is just why offroadexplorer.com was created.

Best Solo Getaway: Garry (gco0307) - (You can find this story at offroadexplorer.com Forum Index >> Been there? Done That? >> A solo getaway to McKillops Bridge and back.) Garry is the kind of guy that looks for any gap in his calendar and fills it with an adventure ride. Not too many of us would take off for a lonely weekend ride from Sydney to McKillops Bridge and back - solo. You have to be confident in your abilities should you strike trouble. Now, OziMick was in contention for this award for his epic desert rides but Garry got across the line first for doing many of his rides on a V-Strom! Believe me, in greasy conditions those things are a handful and his Pigs In Mud post totally clinched it! Unfortunately for OziMick he also lost points for not having his dishwasher connected. But that's another story.

Congratulations whitey, atgreg, drussdog and gco0307: you'll all receive subscriptions to TRAIL ZONE! - Lance Turnley

offroadexplorer.com



APPLE ISLE: Tasmania will play host to the 2009 BMW GS Safari. Photo: Lou Martin/BMW

GS SAFARI FOR TASSIE

ONE OF THE biggest adventure rides of the year is the annual BMW GS Safari and this year the landmark event is taking aim on Tasmania. The route takes in the best scenery Tasmania has to offer but what makes this Safari special is that registration and the rider's welcome function will take place onboard the Spirit of Tasmania ferry on the night of March 29, with the on-bike action kicking off the next day when the boat docks in Devonport.

The BMW GS Safari caters to riders of all skill levels while for the ultra-keen and experienced riders there is an optional section mid-way through the event that will add another layer of spice and interest. This section is genuinely for hard-core off-road exponents only.

For BMW GS riders who would like to hone their off-road riding skills, Safari entrants can attend a two-day BMW Off-Road Riding Skills course at Werribee, Victoria, immediately prior to the departure for Tasmania. We've completed a BMW Off-Road Riding Skills course and even for experienced riders it's a great refresher to get you in the (trail) zone for the ride.

The BMW GS Safari always offers an excellent week of riding and for more details on this year's event, check out the www.bmwsafari.com web site or contact the BMW Safari management team by calling (02) 9552 3600 during NSW business hours or email info@bmwsafari.com.



RIDE RIGHT ROUND

SIMON Buckley and Todd Barry (left) are two blokes setting off on what looks set to be the adventure of a lifetime, by lapping the globe on a ride from Australia through Asia, Russia, Europe, the Americas, New Zealand and back to Australia again, all to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

We spoke to Simon and Todd at the Sydney Motorcycle Show and they've gained support from RJays, AdventureMoto, Pivot Pegs, J&W Dual Sport, MTD Tours, Launch Helmet Cams, Compass Expeditions, Digital Pacific, Bizar Software, Sold Out National Event Management, ETF and Mr Swagman. They're riding Kawasaki KLR650s and are ready for their Ride Right Round challenge.

Take a look at the www.riderightright.org web site and support their effort to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

ROBO ADVENTURE RIDER

STEVE Smith from AdventureMoto loves his motorcycles. He has several of them crammed inside his garage and when he's not out riding he's distributing Wolfman luggage to the masses or running his new motorcycle hire business www.ozrider.com. He's the kind of guy that comes up with an idea and runs with it and always has several projects on the go at once. We've long thought this guy is a machine and when we spotted this image on the web, well, we had to wonder if his secret was out: Steve is the one on the right ... we think.

