

A K1200GT gets even better...

By Charles Perry Hebard #82374

In May of 2006 I was fortunate enough to purchase a new BMW K1200GT. My dealer, located in Port Clinton PA, called and announced that I could take delivery on the revolutionary new GT as the result of leaving a deposit six months earlier.

Off I went to pick up my bike. Sure enough, the new bike sat gleaming on the showroom floor, ready to ride. The new GT, came with ESA, (electronic adjusting suspension) and a BMW tall screen.

My trade, a 2002 K1200RS, had been outfitted with an aftermarket wind screen, manufactured by Aeroflow in California.



165 lbs, with a 32" inseam.

In a short time the Cee Bailey arrived, the swap was simple and quick. The initial run down Route 80 at 80 mph proved there had been a great improvement. The protection was excellent. The ride – quieter. The price was reasonable. It looked good on the new K12GT too, All was well, the wind problem had been solved. All that was left was to ride vast distances with joy.



courtesy of my dealer and BMW. The low seat was a huge improvement over the stock seat.

After some research on the Internet, I found that Cee-Bailey and Aeroflow were both designing a custom screen for the new GT. It would be almost a year before the Aeroflow would be ready. Thankfully, the Cee Bailey would be available in three

months. I immediately ordered the tallest screen they made. I am 5' 11" tall, weigh

After a long run to western PA for an overnigher, it was evident that the clutch lever and the front brake lever would have to be changed out. My 53-year old hands hurt! This issue was resolved by adding the adjustable levers.

Then, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, I called Aeroflow. I wanted to know how the design work on the new screen was coming. I talked with the owner of the company, Paige Ortiz. He was very helpful and mentioned that a new screen was in testing. He and his wife had just gotten in from a test ride at speeds over 130 mph. He talked extensively about the feel and his passengers comments. It seems his

wife thought that further improvement was needed.

Right off the bat I liked this. The owner of the company and his wife were not only doing the design work, they were also doing the testing! He was accessible and truly interested in producing a superior product. Paige told me to be patient and added my name to the list of possible beta testers



It had provided a substantial improvement to the K1200RS. I had also added bar backs, and the '02 RS was a real joy to take for a long run.

My expectation for the new GT was to meet or exceed the feel and experience of my 2002 RS. On my maiden ride I found the BMW screen wasn't doing its job. Although the screen looked impressive, it was noisy and required me to slump down on the seat and peer through the screen to receive any protection. In addition to this problem, the seat was painful. The stock killer seat was changed out for the BMW "low seat" This exchange was made

for the new screen.

I figured being partially retired and able to provide the time to do the testing, this would be an interesting experience. For the next two months I called Paige and pleaded for the test screen. I told him I wanted a screen that was quiet and allowed me to look over the top by at least four or five inches. I also requested that the screen would provide my wife with the same level of comfort that she had previously experienced with the K12RS fitted with the AeroFlow screen. Paige said that after many hours of rigorous testing, he was ready to ship the prototype.

My anticipation ran high the day the UPS truck arrived with not just one screen but two. Paige had sent both the standard height as well as his new tall screen. I called him and he just wanted me to try both due to my height and weight. This speaks volumes for Paige and his company. He requested a specific test with either screen. The route, the road surface, the wind direction, the temperature and most importantly, the miles ridden were to be recorded for both screens. He wanted a detailed report. That's what I gave him. I ended up ordering the tall screen, however the standard height would have worked just as well for me. I also noticed that with the ESA system, I could fine tune the performance of the screens.

The standard screen immediately surprised me. A new level of quiet had been achieved. The much sought "quiet zone" was immediately evident. I might add that the entire installation took all of about 20 minutes. The patented Laminar Flow Plate was definitely unique and not available from BMW. Whatever this flow plate does, it does well. I think this may be the secret to Paige's design.

I did a rather lengthy comparison of the BMW tall screen, then the Cee-Bailey and then the two AeroFlow Screens all on the same day. The AeroFlow was the only screen that provided an area of still air above the top edge. The top edge could be 4-5 inches below my line of sight and still provide a quite pocket to ride in. Better visibility, a quieter ride and with the inclusion of the optional AeroGuards, the best protection in the industry.

Aero guards are additional protection that are specifically designed for the K12GT. They widen the protection area to include the rider's arms. Passengers experience a similar increase in protection.

In a conversation with Paige I suggested he sell the screen and the guards as a "ultimate package." He disagreed, saying that it would be difficult for his customers to understand the difference in pricing from his competition by including the guards. The point is this: No one else offers the AeroGuards or a similar product. It all adds up to the world's finest protection. The screen with the Laminar flow plate and AeroGuards is a unique package of products. It has radically improved the comfort and enjoyment of the K1200GT. By exchanging the seat, adding the bar backs and installing the AeroFlow screen and guards, the new BMW is the finest bike ever available for sport touring. That is at least - this rider's opinion.

For more information see www.aeroflowscreens.com.

ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE

Autumn Riders

Show Pride in Your Ride

- Quality apparel and accessories
- Detailed embroidery
- Hundreds of motorcycle and car designs
- Exceptional vehicle color matches

Experience the AutumnRiders Difference:
www.autumnriders.com
866.644.0280 (US/Canada)
978.251.2234

BMW'S - R32 TO LATEST

Hyper-Lite
Flashing LED Brake Light Enhancement

COMMAND ATTENTION

All BMW kits are model-specific and prewired for easy installation.

- Brake Lights
- Running Lights
- Accent Lights
- Emergency Flashers
- Bungie Buddies
- Weatherproof Switchgear

888-770-1010
www.hyperlites.com

www.airheads salvage.com

**Fine Used BMW Parts
Airhead Salvage and Sales**

(512) 332-2931

mike@airheads salvage.com

Factory Quality Paint & Bodywork
Color Matching, Pinstriping, Restorations
5-Year Warranty and Daily UPS

Bavarian Cycle Paint

www.bavarian-cycle-paint.com

760-868-5726

Find out why so many Dealers and Riders
Trust our Quality Craftsmanship!

2161 Trinity Rd., Pinon Hills, CA 92372

Bolivia, Peru, Argentina 23rd May 2008

Peru-North Chile 22nd June 2008

Rent and tour on latest BMW models —
F650GS, Dakar, R1150GS, R1200GS to Peru,
North Argentina, Patagonia, Atacama Desert
and Ushuaia — "the end of the world."

Motoaventura

info@motoaventura.cl
www.motoaventura.cl

Independent touring or guided
tours with multilingual guide,
mechanic and support vehicle.

Suburban Machinery



R1200GS

Comfort footpegs, 1.4" lower
Footpeg comfort kits for K12LT
and all Oilheads & Hexheads

1-800-297-1341

see more products online at
www.suburban-machinery.com