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# Riding On

NEWCASTLE  
2011  
AGM



## American Wild West

**PLUS:**

The Bare Bones Odyssey  
Motorcycling into the Wild  
*Riding On* reviews BMW's Super Tourer – the K1300GT



# Making Dreams Come True



## The art of communication is always fraught with peril

**T**here have been major wars caused by someone taking what was written or spoken out of context. I've probably just started a conflict somewhere with this opening sentence!

The favourite pillion once fainted while on back of our bike on the way to the Mount Gambier AGM, very scary. Were she able to tell me she was feeling unwell at the time, a lot of stress would have been avoided. Needless to say, we've had an intercom ever since.

Mr Mobile is constantly searching for motorcycle friendly systems. They believe the Sena SMH10 headset is the best-priced user friendly one currently available.

So far we've used it as bike to bike and rider to pillion communication. Setup in full face, flip face and open face helmets. The only drawback we have found is the wind noise in the open face helmet on bikes without a screen. It's possible the microphone can be better shielded; we'll keep you appraised.

First and foremost, read the instructions very carefully. This is not a unit you can "bum" your way through. It does require the user to familiarise themselves with the system.

Gloucester member, Phil Latham #42665, and I attended a protest ride regarding NSW CTP Green Slips. This gave us a perfect opportunity to test the headsets in the confusion of Sydney.

Over to you Phil... Phil? He must be on the phone again!

(Phil Latham - this is very easy to use (once I got the hang of it). Even with heavy gloves, to adjust the volume is an easy task (Only trouble is more operator error than anything else). Once that was overcome, myself on a noisy V-twin (Buell Ulysses), with modified exhaust, the speakers were easy to hear and with good clarity (earplugs in of course).

The system is comfortably audible at road speeds of around 110kph. I suppose a lot depends on how quiet the rider's helmet is. My Zeus was good heading to Sydney as we had a tailwind, unfortunately on the return trip we were running higher speeds and into a headwind, so then my helmet was noisier.

I successfully made two mobile calls with voice activation (iPhone), both were achieved successfully, however, hanging up was a little clumsy and it asked me for a number to call even after I thought I had hung up (once again, operator error rather than headsets).

iPods are good to run through the system as well, but I could not for the life of me work out how to get the iPod back on once we had established comm.'s between the two headsets?? So we chose to ride with just the comm. link between us.)

Thanks Phil. As he said, we kept the comm.'s link open between us for most of the day and we didn't think to switch it off when we were off the bikes. In all, the system was constantly on and undiminished for some 11 hours. We noted that the distance between us for clear usage (approx. 900 metres) did depend on line of sight (hills, buildings etc.). If you exceed the distance from the unit with your blue-tooth mobile, you'll have to reset it when back in range. At one stage my bike was out front of a house while I went out back to the garage and the connection was lost.

MP3s and iPods etc. can "pipe" stereo music to you. If you tap the large "jog" button to talk you then isolate the music while speaking. If either person taps the "jog" again the music returns, that was Phil's problem, he wasn't allowing enough time between taps.

Having no leads to tie you to the bike is handy when getting on or off, plus you can still communicate as long as you have your helmet on.

I found the instructions a little on the brief side for charging the unit batteries. Charging can be done via a 240V point or a cigarette lighter outlet.

Once mastered it takes only minutes to setup a helmet with a headset. I used my R & R Speedsports Zeus helmet for the main test unit and 2 other different ones for the second unit.

When working as a rider/pillion set, the favourite pillion found that her heavy gloves tended to turn the intercom off when she adjusted the volume (same dial/button). After some practise it became easier to get the sequence right. There is a time delay of a couple of seconds before you can speak to your partner after turning the intercom on (tapping jog button).

As a single unit it works well, even with standard earplugs, I could easily hear my MP3 on the DR650 in Sydney traffic or out on the freeway.

It wouldn't be difficult to recycle an old set of stereo headphones to mount these units for use during 4WD tours or fishing trips or any number of ventures where communication between 2 or 4 persons would be advantageous.

We'll give you more updates as time goes on. At \$549 we think it represents very good value for the service it gives.

System supplied by Mr Mobile Shop E, 1 Shirley Street, Alexandria NSW 2015 Phone: 02 8338 8558 Web: [www.mrmobile.net.au](http://www.mrmobile.net.au)

May your lid never skid. ■

Ian Parks

