

Rebel Ramble 2007

15th Annual Rebel Ramble - July 3 - 20th, 2007 - Brampton to Arlington, WA

Things To Bring

The following are just some suggestions - please send info on anything that you have found useful for "fly 'n camp" !

Clothing: Plan on packing only enough changes for about 5 to 7 days - we will hit laundries. Some of the motels we stop at have laundry rooms, as well. We've found cotton washables from Tilley Endurables to be great value.

They're pricey - about \$129 for Classic pants, and \$120 for a long-sleeved shirt, but - they last for years. I have several Tilley Shirts that are over 15 years old - and they still look good ! You can wash them in a shower, hang them on a rod, and they look pressed in the morning !! We like the Maverick vest (\$159), also - lots of pockets !

(*Lifetime guarantee* on their Classic shorts (\$115) & T3 hats (\$60)!!)

Of course, jeans & cotton T-shirts work great too ! Wear whatever is comfortable.

Tilley Endurables, 900 Don Mills Rd., Toronto M3C 1V6 - (416) 441-6141 - call for free catalogue ! Also in Montreal, Mississauga, & Vancouver. They have lots of stylish travel clothes for ladies, too !

Suitcase: We have friends who go to Mexico for 6 weeks with only one carry-on bag like ours - a Stradallina, nylon fabric, with 3 full zippered compartments, (Sears, about \$75). It just seems to grow ! I found a very handy carry-on called Luggie Commuter Soft Pack at Grand & Toy for about \$60 - it has straps hidden in pockets that turn it into a back-pack ! Holds about 3 days of clothes. Very handy for that hike into town from the airport ! (Airports are *almost always* far from town !!)

Over the years, we've developed the "**2 Bag Trick**" - the large bags with most of the clothes are buried in the back, and we keep a small, easy to carry bag each, right on top, where we can grab it quickly & head off ! The small bags hold 2 or 3 days clothing, toiletries, and a couple of food bars & water bottle - just in case !

Sleeping Bag, folding pillows (Can. Tire), & comforter : a good sleeping bag, 3 + lb. will work well, and, instead of a second bag, we sometimes take along a polyester comforter (duvet). If it's warm, we put the sleeping bag underneath, and the comforter over us. If it's cold, the reverse keeps us a little warmer, and you can put both together if it's really cold ! Sheets & pillowcases make for more comfort, are easy to wash, and don't weigh a lot. We switched to Thinsulate lightweight sleeping bags a few years ago - they're much smaller & lighter, and can be plenty warm.

Rain poncho (& folding umbrella) : Yes, it does rain on *Rambles* ! The poncho can be small, light, & disposable - Canadian Tire again ! (they are available at Oshkosh, but you will likely need it before then !) A plastic **garbage bag** will do in a pinch - 2 or 3 of these are handy to have, in any case.

Shower shoes (flip-flops) , swim trunks, and suntan lotion are essential for Oshkosh ! Wear the swim trunks, flip-flops, and a shirt to the showers (**do not** take a wallet or watch !) - quick to get in & out of, and you avoid getting mud on your good pants. Change into walking clothes back at the tent after. (Wallet is locked in aircraft.)

Don't forget the **bathing suit** - sometimes we go wild and stay in motels with pools, saunas, and whirlpool tubs ! You never know with *Ramblers* ! A **large bath/beach towel** can be handy, doubling as a blanket if it gets cold.

Hats: You definitely need a good hat, with a wide brim, to keep the sun off at Oshkosh (& elsewhere!) . We love the cotton hats from Tilley Endurables - great value ! They're pricey - about \$45, but - they last for years, include tie-down strings, and have a *lifetime guarantee* !! (I'm on my second freehat now !)

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Tent: For what it's worth, we've tried many, and so far, the easiest to set up & pack away is the **square dome**. (*NOT* Hexagonal !) The 8 ft. square, at least 6 ft. high, is a good size - roomy enough for 2 for Oshkosh, but small to pack. (Canadian Tire - about \$150) The 10 ft. square is roomy, but harder to put up. Get the highest tent you can - it makes dressing a LOT easier !

A few years ago, we started using a "3 second UP" tent, with a steel spring wire frame. Just take it out of the bag, toss it in the air, and it's all set up when it lands !! Our **Quickdraw Vagabond II** tent is about 6' x 9' x 52", not as high as we'd like, but just great for *Rambling* one-night stands - fits nicely under a wing. It folds ('coils') up into a round bag, about 39" in diameter, and 3" thick - fits nicely at the back of the *Rebel's* baggage area. Initially, we suffered from "3 Hours DOWN", but now can pack it away pretty quickly. We'll bring it to the pre-*Ramble* briefing - might be interesting for others.

Air mattresses: Again - tried lots, really like the self-inflating air mattress from Canadian Tire, about 2" thick (on sale, about \$40, better ones about \$80). Works better than bubble packs, easier to pack & lighter than foam. Later trips found us with "self-DE-flating" mattresses, so we've gone back to plain old 'El-Cheapo' air mattresses, double bed size

Fleece-lined (nylon) shell jacket, warm sweater, and gloves: It gets cold at 10,000 ft., and in the evenings ! Layers of clothing work best for flexibility. One of those aluminized plastic "**space blankets**" could be handy, & they don't take much room.

Zip-Lock Baggies & freezer bags: Very handy for storage, and emergency relief, and air sickness.

Water bottles & insulated covers: 1 1/2 L. water bottles can save your life on a hot day ! Beware dehydration !

Sturdy tie-downs: You will need the best you can get ! And **good ropes**, too ! The "doggie ties" can work, if you use 2, in an "X". I hear the "Alaska tie downs" are great, as are the "Pole anchor" type, with a flat plate.

A good camera: 35 mm with zoom & panoramic capability, and lots of film ! Or, if you're more modern, a zoom digital camera, and a few extra flash cards to store pics on ! Most of these now have short movie capability, and you might find that adequate, instead of lugging along a video camera too. Don't forget the rechargeable batteries - and a charger !
(For the cell phone, too !)

These are only a few suggestions - send yours along !!

See the "*More Things to Bring*" pages for additional items to make for a better *Ramble* !