

# Adventure Rider

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## Check your F650GS or Dakar Forks

**WOZZUPPP WayneC1?**

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11-20-2008, 09:10 AM

#61

### WayneC1

Adventurer

Joined: Oct 2008  
Location: Australia  
Odometer: 58

The latest response from BMW has achieved one thing and that is the issue has been escalated within BMW.

The response means BMW UK can no longer claim they are unaware of the issue or deny failures have occurred.

It is now on the public record that the UK BMW Motorrad Customer Service Manager and Service Manager have been made aware of the issue.

This will assist any other owner who has a failure in the future.

The BMW Customer Service Manager has also agreed that if an issue was shown to exist that BMW would accept liability, this is important for the future as additional information comes to light.

I am aware of one instance in Australia of fork failure in a 2001 model machine where the machine was written off by the insurance company without referral to BMW

There is also the thread below on the UK F650GS site

<http://www.f650.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=7083>

Note the machine was valued by the dealer at £1500 and that BMW insurance paid out £3000

*Last edited by WayneC1 : 11-20-2008 at 09:23 AM.*



[edit](#) [quote](#)

11-30-2008, 12:21 PM

#62

### bluepoof

insert pithy saying here



Joined: Dec 2004  
Location: San Carlos, CA  
Odometer: 338

I'm preemptively swapping my 2001 lowers for 2003+ ones.

Here are a few comparison photos where you can really see the extra material that BMW has added in the latter forks.

Both sets are still off the bike (catching the stomach flu has extended the length of time this work is taking ;) ) so, if anyone has any specific photos you'd like me to take, let me know. I probably won't get the forks reinstalled onto the bike until early next week.

The dirty ones are, obviously, my original '01 lowers.




THIS PHOTO IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE.






'09 BMW F650GS \* '01 BMW F650GS \* '02 Yamaha XT225 \* '08  
Honda CRF80F  
[www.bluepoof.com](http://www.bluepoof.com)

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 11-30-2008, 04:40 PM

#63

**bluepoof**

insert pithy saying here



Joined: Dec 2004  
Location: San Carlos, CA  
Odometer: 338

Here's the first set of request photos. 🤖

The brake caliper mount looks identical between the new and old  
fork lowers.








'09 BMW F650GS \* '01 BMW F650GS \* '02 Yamaha XT225 \* '08 Honda CRF80F  
[www.bluepoof.com](http://www.bluepoof.com)

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 11-30-2008, 06:57 PM

#64

**ThorH**

BMW F650GS



Joined: Nov 2005  
Location: Oslo, Norway

*"In closing, I trust that I have adequately clarified the position of the manufacturer in this instance."*

Absolutely. They don't give f\*\*\*, and will rather let people die than take the cost. And they are probably afraid that they will have a heap of law suits if they give in now.

I'm no fan of the ambulance chasers, but this is an area where the US legal system really shine. BMW deserves a slap on their face

Odometer: 130

over this one. And throw in the R1200GS brake failure, another example where they just deny everything and claim total ignorance after being told repeatedly. How many have died over these two issues?


Anyone here connected with BMWMOA, BMW Club Europa e.V., Federation of European BMW Clubs, or any of the national clubs? Maybe they ought to step up and show some muscle, or are they too heavily sponsored?

Edit: I have sent an e-mail to [www.bmw-motorcycle-magazine.com](http://www.bmw-motorcycle-magazine.com). Maybe the press could be useful, but we need victims to step forward. Hope BMW hasn't bought everyones silence.

*Last edited by ThorH : 11-30-2008 at 07:10 PM.*

 [Blame MaddBrit](#)

 quote

 11-30-2008, 11:41 PM

#65

**talltony**

Gnarly Adventurer

Joined: Apr 2005  
Location: Dorset,UK  
Odometer: 129


A major sportbike magazine has been in touch about this and say that they're going to run an article but I don't know when.

Tony

02 F650 Dakar  
95 XR250

 [Blame MaddBrit](#)

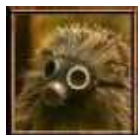
 quote

 12-09-2008, 06:43 AM

#66

**jodyz121**

Mostly Harmless . . .



Joined: Feb 2006  
Location: Louisiana  
Odometer: 195

Quote:

Originally Posted by **bluepoof**  
*I'm preemptively swapping my 2001 lowers for 2003+ ones.*


May I ask where you obtained the replacement fork housings shown in your (very helpful) photos? Cost? Part Number?

Thank you very much. This forum proves to be a fantastic resource, once again.

JodyZ  
'03 F650GSA  
'02 R1150RT

 [Blame MaddBrit](#)

 quote

 12-09-2008, 09:41 AM

#67

**bluepoof**

insert pithy saying here



Joined: Dec 2004  
Location: San Carlos, CA  
Odometer: 338

Quote:

Originally Posted by **jodyz121**  
*May I ask where you obtained the replacement fork housings shown in your (very helpful) photos? Cost? Part Number?*

I did a little shopping around and eventually just ordered them from my local BMW dealer. They were about \$300 each (spendy,

but less so than LifeFlight).

I spent quite a bit of time looking around ebay/craigslist but most of the bikes I saw being parted out did not include the forks (which makes sense, since they were mostly being parted out due to wrecks, in which case the forks might be bent). The good-as-new forks I found used were barely cheaper than the new ones from the dealer (and would have had shipping added too). So I bit the bullet and decided just to buy new ones.

The part numbers are the same as the old model but, since the new ones have been around since 2003, chances are you'll get the new version.

Part numbers are 7-651-135 (left) and 7-651-136 (right).

Here's the stampings for the forks; first the old one and then the new one:

Left (old then new):







Right:






For those that are interested, I also have a write-up on how to disassemble the forks and replace the lowers. [Clicky clicky](#) for that.

'09 BMW F650GS \* '01 BMW F650GS \* '02 Yamaha XT225 \* '08 Honda CRF80F  
[www.bluepoof.com](http://www.bluepoof.com)

 [Blame MaddBrit](#)

 [quote](#)

 12-10-2008, 01:48 AM

#68

**jodyz121**

Mostly Harmless . . .



Joined: Feb 2006  
Location: Louisiana  
Odometer: 195

Quote:

Originally Posted by **bluepoof**  
*For those that are interested, I also have a write-up on how to disassemble the forks and replace the lowers. [Clicky clicky](#) for that.*

Awesome! This is an easy and (relatively) affordable fix. You have saved me.

I was planning to ride my GS all over the Pacific Northwest next year, but it wasn't going to happen if I had to worry about losing the front wheel and nose diving into the pavement.

What do you want for Christmas?

JodyZ  
'03 F650GSA  
'02 R1150RT

 [Blame MaddBrit](#)

 [quote](#)

### bluepoof

insert pithy saying here



Joined: Dec 2004  
Location: San Carlos, CA  
Odometer: 338

Quote:

Originally Posted by **jodyz121**  
*I was planning to ride my GS all over the Pacific Northwest next year, but it wasn't going to happen if I had to worry about losing the front wheel and nose diving into the pavement.*

That's why I did it, too. I was freaking out every time my bike wobbled at all. I figured replacing the forks was going to be cheaper than therapy. 😬

Quote:

What do you want for Christmas?

Happy F650GS owners! 😊❤️

'09 BMW F650GS \* '01 BMW F650GS \* '02 Yamaha XT225 \* '08 Honda CRF80F  
[www.bluepoof.com](http://www.bluepoof.com)

Blame MaddBrit



### jodyz121

Mostly Harmless . . .



Joined: Feb 2006  
Location: Louisiana  
Odometer: 195

Parts ordered (\$400 per side). My local BMW dealer says he never heard of a fork failure on a BMW and thinks I'm crazy. Good Lord willing, may both of these statements continue to be true.

JodyZ  
'03 F650GSA  
'02 R1150RT

Blame MaddBrit



### HelloKitty

Adventurer



Joined: Aug 2008  
Location: Cranberry Country  
Odometer: 14

#### F650 Fork change date

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WayneC1**  
*The interesting part is we are not sure when the new type were introduced into production. Initially it was thought June 2003 but we now know of one machine built December 2002 with the newer style strengthened fork legs.*  
  
*Thanks to the posts here we seem to have narrowed the changeover to Oct 2002.*

Here's my contribution

Production Date: **02-2003**  
Fork Style: **New**

And here's the short list of production dates/fork styles that folks have posted here...

1998 - ?? Old

-----

2002 - 06 Old

2002 - 07 Old

2002 - 10 Old

2002 - 10 New

2002 - 12 New

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2003 - 03 New

2003 - 04 New


2003 - 06 New

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'03 F650 GS

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 12-23-2008, 03:22 AM

#72

## slide

A nation in despair

Joined: Jul 2003

Location: NM, USA

Odometer: 17,494

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ThorH**

*"In closing, I trust that I have adequately clarified the position of the manufacturer in this instance."*

*Absolutely. They don't give f\*\*\*, and will rather let people die than take the cost. And they are probably afraid that they will have a heap of law suits if they give in now.*

*I'm no fan of the ambulance chasers, but this is an area where the US legal system really shine. BMW deserves a slap on their face over this one. And throw in the R1200GS brake failure, another example where they just deny everything and claim total ignorance after being told repeatedly. How many have died over these two issues?*

The US style tort system is a disaster which only imagines that it would prevent recurrences of such failures. It, among other factors, is a huge parasitical load upon the US economy. I'd not wish it on any other nation and in fact, wish it would go away in mine.

I think you'll note that even if you figure the fork leg issue on F's and the brake failure issues on other models are real, they both exist unmolested in the US just as they do in Germany, France, UK, etc. It's not as if BMW NA leaped into action spurred by Ralph Nader clones and refitted the power assisted brakes with 2007 and later style braking systems. In fact, nothing has occurred. Ditto the F fork legs. AFAIK, no warranty w/o failure has occurred in the US on either of those 'issues' you state.

So forget relief from the parasites infesting the US legal system. I'm disappointed in BMW in a way, but recognize that the cost of addressing these issues makes such addressing probably impossible.


I keep hoping BMW would offer some sort of compromise situation



such as offering owners of F models new style fork parts for a very low cost as a good will gesture. Ironically, given your post, is that it can't because to do so would open it up for just those nuisance suits you think should (but won't) address the initial problem.

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 12-24-2008, 11:05 AM

#73

## WayneC1

Adventurer

Joined: Oct 2008  
Location: Australia  
Odometer: 58

UK Superbike magazine has written an article on the subject under the title "Forking Hell". Can be viewed online at

<http://www.zinio.com/express3?issue=...=si&pg=seo&p=9>


BMW's response to the magazine's request for comment is simply not credible as failures are known to occur on machines which have not been subject to "prior damage" and which have not been ridden in dirt road environments

BMW NA and AG were made aware of the such failures back in 2004 complete with metallurgy report by Jim Tussey whose failure is posted in the threads here and elsewhere



 edit

 quote

 12-24-2008, 10:39 PM

#74

## slide

A nation in despair

Joined: Jul 2003  
Location: NM, USA  
Odometer: 17,494


The Seattle chick hit a rut and crashed so hard that the handlebars sheared off of their mounts BEFORE the fork leg failure. Hit a RUT and SHEARED off the HANDLEBARS - think on that one before you conclude that the problems occur only on undamaged bikes.

The guy in Oz had just bought the the bike the day before. For all we know, the PO knew he'd damaged the bike or it was put together by the dealership from crashed parts. Again, the implication is that BMW is right here.

I'm NOT saying that this is all from previous damaged bikes failing & it's not a structural thing, but the examples given in the mag article are just plain b.s. They strengthen BMW's position.

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 12-25-2008, 09:17 AM

#75

## WayneC1

Adventurer

Joined: Oct 2008  
Location: Australia  
Odometer: 58

To clarify

It was a low speed low side fall in a mud puddle for Redbaroness & substituted longer handlebar mounting bolts to accomodate bar risers sheared off not the handlebar mounts, the bars were not even bent in the fall.

"The guy in Oz" is me, the machine was purchased with factory warranty from a BMW Dealer & was not "put together with crashed parts"


Yes I agree with you it would have been better if the article quoted more instances of the failures, it did refer to more instances being in the advrider threads



 edit

 quote

 new reply

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-- cRASH



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