



BMW F800 Riders Forum > Community > General Discussion

Catastrophic Fork Failure F650GS single

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08-10-08 #1

Ataman

From: Toronto, ON, Canada.
Joined: Apr 2007
Online: 04-28-09
Stats: **608** / 0.66 / 2 / 0

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showp...4&postcount=80>

<http://red-baroness.net/Motorcycling...ike/forks1.jpg>

<http://red-baroness.net/Motorcycling...ike/wheel1.jpg>

<http://red-baroness.net/Motorcycling...ike/wheel2.jpg>

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08-10-08 #2

Superduper

holy moly, i was always wondering if something as far as a fork failure is possible, hope i didnt put that into the air and he caught it. i guess it can, wonder what the cause was. I wonder if BMW will do anything about that, since im sure there looks to be many miles on that dakar, or 650gs anyway. hot damn.

Thats some good ass cheese!

Quote:

Real Name: Jason A
From: Miami, FL, USA.
Joined: Sep 2007
Online: 43 Minutes Ago

Stats: **3,404** / 4.50 / 76 / 8
'07 BMW F800ST

Can you pass that \$#it you,ve been smokin Arles?...

yes i can...

she - 2007 BMW F800ST
167 fuel-ups
ridden by superduper



53.7
Avg MPG



08-10-08

#3

mk1951 

I've never seen or heard of such a thing! I used to own a 2001 650 GS had over 12,000 miles w/o incident, scary. Hope he guy who bought my bike didn't have this happen.

Real Name: N/A
From: Elizabeth, Colorado
Joined: Jun 2008
Online: 3 Days Ago
Stats: **283** / 0.58 / 24 / 0
'07 BMW F800S



08-11-08

#4

Ataman

From: Toronto, ON, Canada.
Joined: Apr 2007
Online: 04-28-09
Stats: **608** / 0.66 / 2 / 0

The Chain Gang (F650 single Forum) knows of some 5 failures like that and makes a note of that in their FAQs.

Old post from **Gertarg**:

"I own a F650 GS that I received new in June of 2000. After about 5,000 miles, I experienced a catastrophic failure of the castings on both side of the front forks. I sustained major injuries. BMW has admitted to knowing of 3 nearly identical failures before they redesigned the forks, adding more material. They decided not to notify owners. I'm wondering if any Chain Gang members know of similar failures. Gertarg '00 F650GS"

BMW redesigned the forks in 2003.

redbaroness thread:

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?t=371650>



08-11-08


#5

Superduper 

shit man. This doesnt sound like any of the previous were refitted with the new ones either huh. Guess its just a matter of time of more of this happening.

Thats some good ass cheese!

Quote:

Originally Posted by **batamali** 
Can you pass that \$#it you,ve been smokin Arles?...


yes i can...

she - 2007 BMW F800ST
167 fuel-ups
ridden by superduper




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 '07 BMW F800ST




07-12-09 #6

als02 
 F800Riders.org Sponsor



July '09 AMCN magazine here in Aus says that there are investigations started in UK and USA on this ... the photos they used looked like the Red Baroness ones.

Real Name: Alan
 From: Sydney Oz
 Joined: Jun 2008
 Online: 1 Week Ago
 Stats: **160** / 0.34 / 7 / 0
 '07 BMW F800S

It will be a great day when Schools get all of the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a chook raffle to raise funds for a new bomber !




07-12-09 #7

Pat H  
 F800Riders.org Sponsor

Real Name: Pat
 From: Ware, Herts, UK
 Joined: Aug 2006
 Online: 1 Minute Ago
 Stats: **7,916** / 6.84 / 627 / 27
 '06 BMW F800S

It's historic fact that motor companies decide on how to deal with serious design or manufacturing problems based on the total cost to the company.
 It's often cheaper to deal with problems on a case by case basis and deal with any law suites as they occur on a case by case basis rather than do the "right thing" and sort the problem for all affected bikes.
 If a few riders are seriously injured or die because of it then that's just another cost to consider.
 It's sad but it's a business and it's about turning a profit. It's hard to imagine how people sitting round a board room table could discuss an issue like this and conclude that current owners at risk shouldn't be notified and the potential risk removed. But they do.
 I guess it takes a certain type of person and even BMW seem to have them. 😞

Flame red F800s as of Nov 2006. Watch for me around North London.
*Shame my ABS sometime requires me to release and re-apply to regain brakes.
 Meets/rideouts attended: Fox's Diner Jan 2008, Derbyshire April 2008, Silver Ball cafe May 2008, Ace Cafe meet June 2008, September Wales meet 2008, Sheffield Bike run March 2009, Historic Rob forum Admin visit and rideout May 2009. Spain France 2009 Jaunt.*



07-12-09 #8

Joelw

Real Name: Joel Wisman
 From: St. Louis, Missouri
 Joined: Apr 2009
 Online: 4 Weeks Ago
 Stats: **284** / 1.40 / 169 / 3
 '09 BMW F800GS

If You read this thread through, and hop to the other to, you get this:
<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showp...3&postco>
 "My bike did have some front end damage in a previous was completely checked out by a BMW dealership. :

I don't have any idea if other bikes that had forks fail had front end damage as well, but this one did.

Aluminum is tricky, hitting it with dye might show up advanced cracks, but really they need to be magnafluxed to tell for sure, and even that's not 100%

Whatever dealer said her forks were fine was likely exceeding their skill level 🤔

Glad she is ok.

P.S. I am one of those people that could sit around a table and discuss whether or not to recall a known issue. It is a requirement of living in the real world unfortunately. Volvo kills maybe a dozen people a year in bizarre super rare failures that are all the same, known possibilities. If every Volvo were recalled for every conceivable rare pattern of failure, we could reduce this to near zero, but we would have to charge, say \$500,000 a car. No one would buy our products anymore and the world would lose one of the safest cars on the market.

I am not convinced that spending so much on engineering and recalls that only the super rich can afford a vehicle is the "right" thing to do, but to each their own.

Last edited by Joelw; 07-12-09 at 04:00 PM..



07-12-09

#9

Superduper 🇩🇪



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From: Miami, FL, USA
Joined: Sep 2007
Online: 43 Minutes Ago
Stats: **3,404** / 4.50 / 76 / 8
'07 BMW F800ST

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07-12-09

#10

Pat H

F800Riders.org Sponsor

Real Name: Pat
From: Ware, Herts, UK
Joined: Aug 2006
Online: 1 Minute Ago
Stats: **7,916** / 6.84 / 627 / 27
'06 BMW F800S

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Superduper**
shit man....i got in a front end accident.....

Well I hope your BMW dealer didn't check it out and say it was all ok....


Flame red F800s as of Nov 2006. Watch for me around North London.
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['09 BMW F800GS](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Pat H** 
Well I hope your BMW dealer didn't check it out and say it was all ok....

+1 It is not so hard to check steel for stress fractures, but aluminum is a different story!



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All times are GMT -5. The time now is **06:08 AM**.

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