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Brand new K1600 failure- sad story

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Yesterday, 02:28 PM

#1

Deerhead

Junior Member

Join Date: Jul 2013
Posts: 3

Brand new K1600 failure- sad story

This is making the LD news and it does not speak well of the BMW brand. Between this and my friend's catastrophe K1600 engine failure, leads to a lack of confidence in the new K's.

[2015 Iron Butt Rally: End of our dream | Sell!](#)

Further testing of the bike at the BMW dealership resulted in the complete failure of the 'DME (?)' to accept any 'updates'. There are much more descriptive efforts and details of the problem in various threads on LDRider.

Ride Safe,
Robert Rehkopf



Yesterday, 03:07 PM

#2

Boxflyer

Junior Member



Join Date: Sep 2014
Location: Memphis
Posts: 17

Like I said to you in another location...stop fanning the flames!

There are MANY MANY more examples of everyday riders that have no problems and love the K1600...just because it happened to someone on the IBA Rally ride, doesn't make the "Brand" bad, or the latest of several updates bad, or cause the rest of us happy K1600 owners to loose faith in this wonderful machine.

Enjoy your 4th!



Yesterday, 03:12 PM

#3

Darbinco

Senior Member



Join Date: Oct 2014
Location: Western Colorado
Posts: 517

I'm sure BMW didn't put a faulty ECM in his machine on purpose. There's things out there that happen and while hard to believe are still out of a manufacturers control. I think small computer chips, fall under this category.

Personally..... I would have never taken a brand new, untested machine on a LD trip like that. I would have wanted to put some miles on it first if for nothing else than to shake it down real good. Had this happened 6 months before the rally, I'm sure they could have it fixed and he wouldn't be as down on the machine as he is now.

Why post this here? Not enough attention elsewhere?

I'm ridin' a 2014 K1600 GTL and I am loving every minute of it!



Yesterday, 03:20 PM

#4

maybeinoregon

Senior Member



Join Date: Jan 2015
Location: Pacific Northwest
Posts: 213



Sad story for sure...

Fact remains, failures can and do happen on any brand of bike.

According to the website, it looks like he finished the 2013 IBR on a BMW...but I guess it's easier to exclude that information...



Yesterday, 03:28 PM

#5

jjscsix

Senior Member



Join Date: Mar 2011
Location: Houston Tx
Posts: 1,272



The writing of both the owner of the bike and the OP of this thread are extremely sensationalized, but there is no real information about what actually went wrong. While I am the first to say that BMW pushes the envelope in bleeding edge technology which does seem to result in a worse overall reliability, the truth is that in my three plus years on this forum, there are actually very few stories of bikes leaving someone stranded - dead in the water.

- 2013 BMW K1600GT - Dark Graphite Metallic**
- 2012 Ducati Panigale ABS**
- 2011 Ninja 1000**



Yesterday, 03:49 PM

#6

charlie3133

Senior Member



Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Vancouver
Posts: 821



It's very sad to hear that they had this failure but the chap writing this was overly 'flowery' in his description.

Sucks it happened but is it really that bad?
Stuff fails all the time. Part of life.

Sent from [Motorcycle.com Free App](#)

- 2013 Graphite GTL
- PDM60
- Amber Running Lights
- Schroedie roundels



Yesterday, 04:39 PM

#7

ViennaK

Senior Member



Join Date: Jun 2014
Location: Osnabrueck Germany
Posts: 180



Yawn.....poetry

'You know that the world is going to h\$ll if they have to print instructions on a bag of toothpicks'
2014 BMW K1600 GTL 1967 HD FL Police



Yesterday, 05:00 PM

#8

cickr

Senior Member



Join Date: May 2013
Location: Pfafftown, NC / north of Winston-Salem



most electronics fail...within....

Back in the day we turned on new pc's in the computer room and left them on for three or four days solid before giving them to people. It seemed that if a circuit board was going to fail it would fail in the first few days after getting hot. Solder joints, etc., PC's that would pass this initial test would end up running for years left on 24/7 as long as they weren't on the floor collecting dust in the fan. Electronic failures are not UN-COMMON.

Posts: 447

So you bought a brand new bike and decided to enter an Iron Butt rally. Seems like user error on your part. Do you put on brand new tires and go riding down the freeway at + double nickel speeds? To you change the oil, filter , get on and ride 100 + miles and hour and never check for leaks?

Wake up - don't blame the brand, change your attitude and plan for success not failure.

There will be other rallies, put 20K on your bike, work out the kinks then your probability of riding 2k more will be much higher.

Cheers.

'13 Drk Graphite GTL
bld date: 0912
pur: 6/13
left cluster: 07/13
06/14- '14 Exclusive - GTL traded in



Yesterday, 05:02 PM

TWEET

Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2014
Location: Sydney, Australia
Posts: 111

He's been here 2 years and had 2 posts before this one. Trolling much?

2014 K1600GT in Montego Blue R1150RT

Sydney, Down Under "Clear For Takeoff"



Yesterday, 05:18 PM

DavidK1600

Member

Join Date: May 2014
Location: South Georgia
Posts: 78

Sorry you had problems but they all break

In the last 40 years my family has owned dealerships in every brand. They all break. The difference between the best and the worst are very small measured in 1 in 10,000 cars. The amount you spend means little. \$100,000 BMW's break down and so do \$15,000 Chevrolets. they are all mechanical and put together by human beings. Look it up, its true.



Yesterday, 05:29 PM

Meese

Senior Member



Join Date: Jan 2011
Location: Tualatin, OR
Posts: 3,747

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Darbinco** :
Personally..... I would have never taken a brand new, untested machine on a LD trip like that. I would have wanted to put some miles on it first if for nothing else than to shake it down real good.

Spot on.

Sam took a gamble, and unfortunately, it failed for him and his lovely wife.

I personally know how heartbreaking dropping out of an IBR can be. Sucks even more when you're feeling good and the bike fails on you.

Yes, this was unfortunate, and yes, it sucks for Sam and Sydney, and yes, there are those who will use this as an excuse to tell the world how awful BMW motorcycles are.

But they'll all get over it, and move on to the next ride . . .

Ken

'13 Dark Graphite Metallic K16GTLTD
Some people see the gas tank as half empty. Some see it as half full. All I care is that I know where the next tankful is coming from .



Yesterday, 07:33 PM

Stric9

Member



Join Date: Apr 2015
Posts: 56

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Deerhead** :
This is making the LD news and it does not speak well of the BMW brand.

Yes Siree Bob - The K series are awful.... Please feel free to drop yours off at my house!!



Yesterday, 08:15 PM


#13

jdpalmer1

Member

Join Date: Sep 2012
Location: Gladstone, NJ
Posts: 54

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cickr**  *Back in the day we turned on new pc's in the computer room and left them on for three or four days solid before giving them to people. It seemed that if a circuit board was going to fail it would fail in the first few days after getting hot. Solder joints, etc., PC's that would pass this initial test would end up running for years left on 24/7 as long as they weren't on the floor collecting dust in the fan. Electronic failures are not UN-COMMON.*

So you bought a brand new bike and decided to enter an Iron Butt rally. Seems like user error on your part. Do you put on brand new tires and go riding down the freeway at + double nickel speeds? To you change the oil, filter , get on and ride 100 + miles and hour and never check for leaks?

Wake up - don't blame the brand, change your attitude and plan for success not failure.

There will be other rallies, put 20K on your bike, work out the kinks then your probability of riding 2k more will be much higher.

Cheers.

Yep, it's called infant mortality and it affects everything made. Sucks but it's the way of the world. I would have put on at least 4k before using it in the Ironbutt. BTW - forget the lemon law threat; I don't see how it would apply in this case.

2012 K1600GTL - Ol' Blue
1993 GTS1000A - The faster Red one
www.GladstoneCountryHouse.com



Yesterday, 10:28 PM

#14

traveler46

Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2013
Posts: 119

A friend of mine bought a new Harley Ultra about 5 years ago. For no apparent reason and with no warning with no consistency, the bike would just die. He had it to the dealer around 6 times and they could never come up with a solution. He finally bought another bike. S*** happens.



Today, 06:30 AM

#15

BMWILLY

Member

Join Date: May 2015
Posts: 96

Guess they all must be that way?



Today, 06:51 AM

#16

Gunnert

Senior Member



Join Date: Sep 2012
Location: Catlett, VA
Posts: 856

From that write-up you'd think their first born had just died, "...crying in our hotel room". OK, a part broke, although the article doesn't really specify "which" part. Sh_t Happens, that's life...

'12 K1600GT/WL EngineBars/CalSci/Wilbers/ VarioLevers/VIO POV Camera/ CDbaneAmber/Warn WXT-200 HID/PDM60/Remus Headers/Booster Plug



Today, 07:47 AM


#17

Lambeau

Member



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Boxflyer**  *Like I said to you in another location...stop fanning the flames!*

There are MANY MANY more examples of everyday riders that have no problems and love the K1600...just because it happened to someone on the IBA Rally ride, doesn't make the "Brand" bad, or the latest of several updates bad, or cause the rest of us happy K1600 owners to loose faith in this wonderful machine.

Join Date: Jun 2014
Location: Minocqua, WI
Posts: 38

Enjoy your 4th!

Well said!



Today, 08:29 AM

blkfalc4

Senior Member



Join Date: Jul 2013
Location: New Bedford, Mass.
USA
Posts: 1,136

Selil, the LD writer of the blog article is a long time forum member on here.

Also, doesn't appear to be his first K16 either.

Can only wish him good luck in a resolution.

Mike

13 K1600GTL (DGM)...loving it
11 FLHTK (Cherry Red/Merlot Sunglo) gone
Lots of others gone..



Today, 08:46 AM

DanDiver

Senior Member



Join Date: Feb 2011
Location: Tampa, Florida
Posts: 1,601

It's a tough break and I feel sorry for him, but in all reality, he set himself up for failure.

Owning as many boats as bike, there is a reason for the first "shake down" cruise. You NEVER take (new) a boat out on a long off shore trip without first trying to break everything. Same with a bike. You ride it a while to see what it will do and where the failure points are. I did the short Iron Butt not long after I bought my K1600 (# 385 off the boat) but probably put at least 1,500 miles on her first.

She purred like a kitten and the trip was amazing..... Just one long smooth ride and after 24,000 miles still getting better and better.

2012 Grey K1600GTL
Tampa, Florida



Today, 09:30 AM

mountainman

Senior Member



Join Date: Apr 2012
Location: Colorado Springs
Posts: 944

I seem to recall that the K1600 model fared poorly in the IB rally 2 years ago, with several of the bikes breaking down. Probably not wise to enter the IB Rally with any model brand new bike. The BMW boxer engine models, Yamaha and Honda seems to be the most popular and reliable choices for the IB Rally where a break down can put you out of the race. My sympathy to the OP for their problem with the bike, but as has been said repeatedly here, this stuff does happen, esp. during an IB Rally.



Today, 11:22 AM

Hallzee

Senior Member



Join Date: Mar 2012
Location: Northern CA, USA
Posts: 820

First of all: Kudos to the driver and his pillion for attempting the IBR.

The writer of the piece has a great gift for prose.

Unfortunately, he has NO GIFT for planning an IBR. Who in their right mind would take a "literally brand new off the show room floor" bike on the IBR? Evidently, their IBR hadn't been quite as carefully planned as they claim in the piece.

Since their hearts have been "ripped out", he's going to ask BMW to take it back under lemon law, or "simply goodwill"? 🙄

I know it's harsh.... But that's just funny.

To the OP: nice third post (first in nearly two years) in over three years on the forum.

-Brian

CCR: 2008, Midway; 2011, Boise; 2012, Duluth; 2014, Chattanooga.

MOA: Billings, 2015

'13 GTL-**P** Dark Graphite Metallic (3/27/13 Build Date)

IBA #31242 MOA #136148



Today, 11:43 AM

#22

venomyellow

Member

Join Date: Sep 2014
Posts: 53

Good grief.....I thought someone had died. I'm sorry to sound unsympathetic, but I think someone needs to get a grip.



Today, 11:51 AM

#23

Northsquad

Junior Member



Join Date: Jun 2015
Location: Long Island, New York
Posts: 14

I'm sorry their dream IBR was cut short, but returning the bike to BMW under the lemon law because a computer took a dump is unlikely. The lemon law gives a dealer three attempts to fix the problem, this one is an easy fix, new computer and away you go, I'd be surprised if BMW takes that bike back. 🙄

Iron Butt Association Member#49820
MOA Member #106320
2013 K1600GT Dark Graphite
2008 K1200GT Dark Graphite(sold)



Today, 11:53 AM

#24

Stric9

Member



Join Date: Apr 2015
Posts: 56

Quote:

Originally Posted by **venomyellow** :
Good grief.....I thought someone had died. I'm sorry to sound unsympathetic, but I think someone needs to get a grip.

Could you imagine out running this guy in a street race?

That article reminds me of this confederate general who would take his daughters into town every Saturday. But sometimes he would tell them they were going, let them get all dressed up and waiting in the wagon, then he'd say they were staying home instead. When asked why he did this, he said it was to teach them how to graciously accept disappointment.



Today, 02:17 PM

#25

belvuebill

Senior Member



Join Date: Jul 2014
Location: Bellevue Washington
Posts: 216

I wonder

A few years ago when political correctness was all the rage, it was also popular to give trophies to everyone that was on a team, weather they won anything or finished in last place. Some of us wondered if the kids on those teams would learn the valuable lessons of dealing with life, disappointments, responsibility and personal accountability. I wonder what happened to those kids?

Bill
Objects in mirror appear to be getting smaller

2013 GTL w/Premium Package
Clearwater Darlas w/CanOpener4
Passport 9500ci, PDM60, Sena 20S, Nav V GPS
Ilium Floorboards, Brake Pedal Enlarger
Shifter Enlarger, Engine Guards, BMW Oil
Hiway Foot Rests, New switch clusters
EarthX36D

Last edited by belvuebill; Today at 02:19 PM. Reason: Not done



Today, 02:59 PM

#26

SkipperDan

Senior Member



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Northsquad** :
...this one is an easy fix, new computer and away you go...



I just had 6 new pistons/rings installed and away I went. Bike runs the same as the day I took delivery. Swapping out an ECU is probably a 2hr job. Something doesn't add up here...

2013 K1600GT
2001 Ducati ST4

Join Date: Apr 2013
Posts: 394



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