

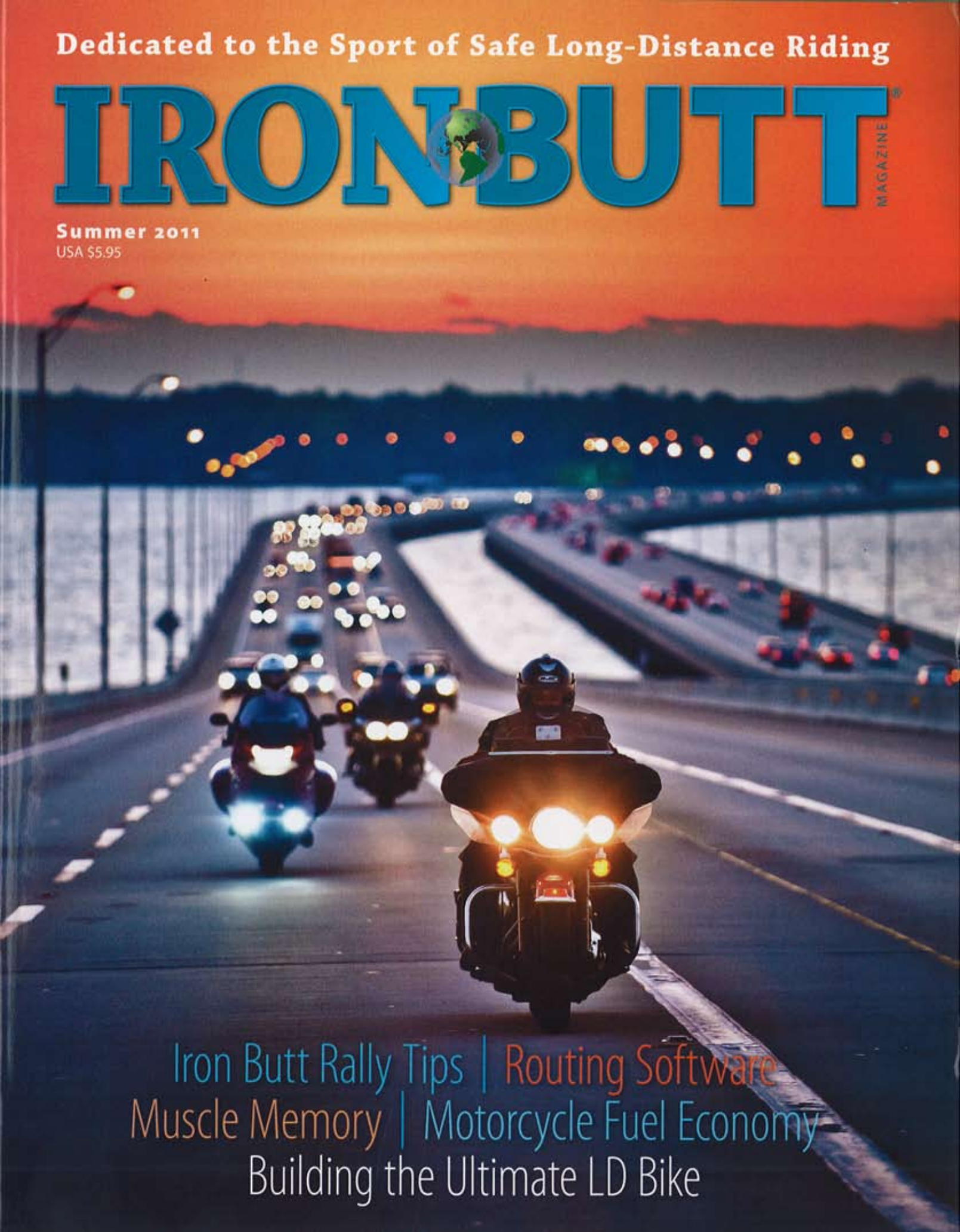
Dedicated to the Sport of Safe Long-Distance Riding

IRONBUTT[®]

MAGAZINE

Summer 2011

USA \$5.95



Iron Butt Rally Tips | Routing Software
Muscle Memory | Motorcycle Fuel Economy
Building the Ultimate LD Bike



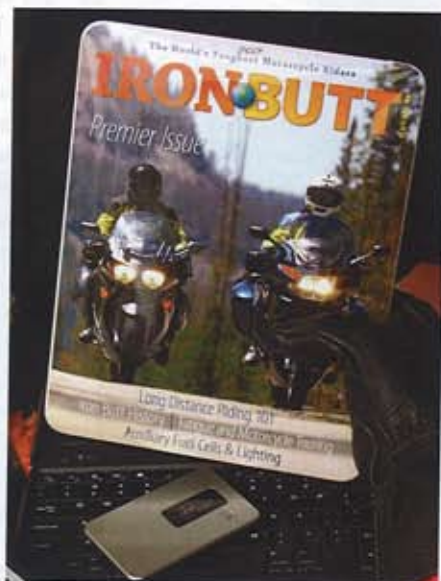
Summer Solutions

Products to resolve those minor aggravations you didn't handle in the off-season.

NOW THAT THE summer riding season is well underway, it's likely you've been reminded of all those small niggling bike problems and gear shortcomings you swore you'd deal with over the winter but somehow never quite got around to. Not to worry — we've been busy checking out some slick new products we think have the potential to solve some of those issues, making this year's certificate rides and endurance rallies just a bit easier:

Traveling Tablet

While a lot of long-distance riders are packing laptop computers, there are alternatives. Enter the **Apple iPad 2** (www.apple.com; \$499), which offers most of the computer capability—email, Internet access, and more—folks need on the road in a much more compact and lightweight package. To protect this traveling tablet we've had good luck with the **ZaggMate iPad case** (www.zagg.com; \$49), a rugged aluminum number that includes an angled stand and can be had with an available Bluetooth keyboard that makes dashing off even the longest electronic missives a snap. To cover the iPad's backside, we ordered up a custom **ZaggSkin** (\$19.99), an adhesive-backed film that protects against scratches and adds a nice grippy texture that makes the unit easier to hold. To make our wi-fi-only iPad more useful, we also tested a small **MiFi 2200** from Virgin Mobile (www.virginmobileusa.com) that uses the decent-enough Sprint cellular network and offers "unlimited" broadband Internet use for just \$50/month with no long-term commitment. While this combo won't run the sophisticated mapping software hardcore rally-types require, we found the iPad's smaller size



and larger screen makes it an attractive alternative to lugging a laptop or squinting and pecking at a tiny smart-phone touch-screen.

Gloves-R-Us

On more than one occasion last summer we were reminded that just because the calendar says it's June doesn't necessarily mean it's all blue

skies and balmy temps. Which is why we've spent the past few months testing gloves designed to protect our paws from a wide range of nasty riding conditions. For starters, we put **Aerostich's Triple Digit Rain Covers** (www.aerostich.com; \$47) to the test in a string of spring downpours and came away impressed by the fact that our hands were just about the driest part of our body. The only nit we can find to pick here is that the Triple Digit's gauntlets were a tad too small to fit over our favorite (and admittedly huge) Knox Handroid gloves, a problem that was neatly solved by leaving an old pair of crash-protective gloves inside them to make them easy-on/easy-off.



Because we've been surprised by near-freezing temperatures in the mountains even in mid-August, we've also been putting some miles on a pair of **FirstGear TPG Cold Weather Gloves** (www.firstgear-usa.com; \$99). Unlike many winter gloves we've tried, these puppies feature thinner insulation on the palms and inside of the fingers which