

3 PRIZED POSSESSIONS

Emelie Karlsson

BY ALEX HORVATH & ANDY WIGAN

At first glance, the presence of a six-foot-tall, blonde bombshell from Scandinavia may seem a little out of place in the AORC paddock. After all, when you think of Sweden, you're more likely to conjure mental images of Sven, Elsa and Mathilda kickin' back in a Jacuzzi, sippin' on cider and chewin' on meatballs, right? But as soon as you see Emelie race her bike, all those preconceptions you derived from your misguided stereotype fly quickly off into a pile of roost – shame on you. Now, how did this incredibly fast Swedish off-road pilot end up in the AORC paddock, you ask? Well, simple really. She met Stefan Granquist – the offspring of Swedish import and former national motocross champ, Pelle. The pair hit it off while they were both racing the national circuit over in Sweden. When Stefan scored a ride in Oz with Ballard's back in 2011, they made the move here and never looked back. With an AORC and A4DE title already on her resume, you can bet that Emelie is here to stay. We asked she-with-Yamaha-blue-fingernails to run us through her most prized possessions...

2 2013 YZ250F

This is the bike that I won my first 4-Day and AORC titles aboard. I've been riding Yamahas since 2008. Before that, I was racing Hondas over in Sweden. But Scandinavian Yamaha gave me a deal back then and I was stoked to jump over to the Yammies. When we moved to Australia, it was a lot easier because Stefan and I were both riding the same brand. In 2013, Yamaha offered us both bike support deals as privateers, so I was stoked to keep riding the blue bikes.

1 MERC SPRINTER

We bought this van about two years ago. We lived in one the first year that we came to Australia. Our original plan was to build it as a motorhome with enough room for our bikes. It has a full camping set-up: fridge, bed, sink and stove. Stefan and I lived together in it for almost eight months – we nearly killed each other a few times. This van has taken us all around Australia, and brought us a lot of good memories. It even crossed the Nullabor and survived!

3 MAKE-UP BOX

I love my make-up. It keeps me looking so beautiful [laughs]. Seriously though, I don't know what I would do without my make-up box. A cool brand called Mary Kay makes this one. I do a little bit of consulting with them on the side. It's pretty fun because it's so different to riding and racing dirt bikes. I'm not really a girly girl so it's nice to add a bit of a feminine touch now and again. You know, I don't even have a mirror in the van.