

KCMC & Friends,

The Riders:

Casper	1200 Sporty
Huckleberry	HD Glide
Gnat	Suzuki GSF1200S Bandit
Rainman	HD
Rainman's Friend	HD Chopper and 6000 other bikers!

The rally:

We got up around 8 a.m. and started to put together our gear. It had rained during the night and the forecast called for rain on and off during the day. Mrs. Takada made breakfast while we did our thing. The plan was to stop by Yakota to fill up and get food/drinks for the Rally and hook up with a friend of Rainman and we actually left on time...only to hit traffic at a dead stop due to an accident. As usual for this weekend we ended up running a little late but the day turned out to be nearly perfect weather wise. We all ended up in T-shirts before we got to the rally. We took route 16 north to the Ken-Etsu and then got on route 144 to Chichibu where the rally was. The entire way was stop and go traffic but there were plenty of bikes (and other things) to look at along the way.

Rainman told us that he had hooked up with another club and had reserved our campsite. What he didn't tell us that it was D RUSH, one of the clubs sponsoring Dragon Wave, and that we had the best campsite location at the rally. We got camp set up and started checking out the 100+ vendors, eating off the different booths and meeting an amazing number of Rainman's friends. Later, the live band came out, we broke out the liquid refreshments and fired up the grills and had a really good evening.

The following morning we woke to sound of the camp loudspeaker at about 7:30. We broke camp and got our gear semi-loaded. I had been doing some map studying and really wanted to check out some squiggly lines. Casper said he'd throw in with me while Huckleberry wanted to get some painting done and Rainman wanted to socialize with D Rush and others. So Casper and I headed northwest on 299 until we hit 462 headed east then cut back south on 71. This was about a 1 ½ hour loop but, for me it made the whole weekend. 299 was very similar to 454 headed out of Gonohe where it follows a river through small towns going up to a mountain pass. The difference was that this mountain pass rivaled some of the best passes we've traveled in Iwate. Simply sick twisted single lane heaven. 462 was similar to route 281 that runs east out of Kuji where it has fast sweepers that follow a larger river but the scenery is so fantastic you don't really want to go to fast because you might miss something. Finally, 71 was a mountain pass that is similar to the roads on the north perimeter of Lake Towada. As Casper and I turned onto 71, I pulled behind a fellow sport bike rider on a large displacement GSXR. Game on! When I finally stopped on the other side of the mountain to let Casper catch up, I checked, and the chicken strips on my tires were very thin. My arms were pumped and I was riding one hell of an adrenaline high.

We returned to the rally, grabbed some grub, and loaded up to head back into Tokyo. Rainman had made arrangements with Alps of D Rush to road captain us back where he took us on another hours worth of some more fantastic roads, route 53 south to route 31 west to route 16. At this point we said farewell to Alps and Rainman led us to the Takahatafudo Temple, an 1100 year old shrine, where we played tourist and went hiking. We finally ended up back at Rainman's place where we were again treated to a delicious supper and some hot showers. The only negative we had for the whole weekend was the forecast for Monday: Rain and cold.

At the rally:

- The Cherry trees were in full blossom and at times on the rides it appeared to be snowing
- Did you know that an 800 lb. Harley Bagger can pull wheelies?

- Rainman pulled off a coup with hooking us up with D Rush. We owe them a big thank you!
- We met the MAD DOGS MC and KONTIKI MC, both American clubs out of Yakota. They may be coming to our rally.
- There was an extremely drunk Japanese man that wanted to give Casper a hug...in Casper's tent. I've never heard that tone in Casper's voice before.
- I introduced D Rush to my friend Jack. Mr. Daniels seemed to get along with them just fine.
- I had a little difficulty getting to sleep Saturday night as my sunburn was pretty uncomfortable. What was Misawa's weather like?
- I managed to cross communication barriers talking with Kami, D Rush's president. It turns out he's a professional photog and had some really cool equipment.
- Alps departing words to me were "Please follow Japanese traffic laws." I wonder why he said that?

Mike "Gnat" Underwood  
 Koushin's Cruiserz MC Misawa Chapter Secretary and Photog  
 '98 Suzuki Bandit GSF1200S  
 Maroon (the fast color!)  
 Krazy Ed 2" mod with jetted carbs  
 K&N Filter  
 Hole Shot Slip-on  
 Hole Shot 5\* Timing Advance  
 Dyno'd 120 rwhp  
 GSXR Rear shock  
 Progressive fork springs  
 Bridgestone 010's  
 Galfer steel braided Brake lines  
 Vortex front and rear C5 gold sprockets  
 RK GB530SXO X-RING Chain  
 Corbin Gunfighter & Lady seat  
 Pro Gel Grips  
 Garmin Etrex Vista GPS  
 RAM mount for GPS  
 Joe Rocket magnetic Tank Bag  
 Nelson Rigg Deluxe Saddle bags  
 Endless Smiles!