

KCMC & Friends,

Part 1 of the ride report will be the trip down last Friday. Due to not being able to download my GPS until we returned I was unable to get statistics for each day.

The Riders:

Casper	1200 Sporty (but it really wants to be something else...)
Huckleberry	HD Glide
Gnat	Suzuki GSF1200S Bandit

The ride:

It almost didn't happen (for me). I was very sick the weekend before the trip and wasn't completely better on Thursday night. I was up until 2 a.m. coughing and ended up waking up at 5:50 a.m. Friday morning, 10 minutes before we were supposed to be on the road. I wasn't alone as Huck was enjoying his beauty sleep also. We ended up leaving Casper's place around 8:30 a.m.

We did a quick stop at Lawson's on the way out, and with Casper in the lead, jumped on the Hachinohe express-way and headed south, stopping around every 80 miles or so. We ran into a drizzly rain just south of Morioka after Huckleberry took on road captain duties when we got on the Tohoku express-way (Cost ¥10,500). The rain lasted all the way to Sendai then it dried up and although it was a little chilly out the weather wasn't much of an issue.

I took over as road captain when we got to the Gaikan expressway (Cost ¥400). From there we jumped onto the Ken-Etsu and then the Ken-O (Cost ¥1,200). Huckleberry took the lead at that point and got us to Yakota where we waited for Rainman to take us to his place which was about 30 minutes of Tokyo traffic which makes route 4 up here look deserted.

When we got to Rainman's we were treated very well. A delicious supper was on the table and cold beers in the fridge along with talk of the days ride and the weekend's plans.

The numbers:

Distance traveled: 763 kilometers
Moving time: 7 hours 22 Mins
Moving average: 104 Kph
Max Elevation: 1618
Total ascent: 14,453 Feet

On the ride:

- You can take this as a plus for Casper or maybe this Harley thing is getting to Huckleberry but when we were coming out of the mountains near Appi, Huckleberry told Casper he was going to fast! We let Huck lead after that.
- There's something out of place when you are riding a motorcycle watching people ski on the mountain you are driving by.
- Casper's battery cable came loose and had to be fixed at an expressway gas station opening the door for Gnat to make Harley jokes.
- Huckleberry's bike wouldn't start due to battery issues at an expressway gas station opening the door for Gnat to make Harley jokes.
- Before the ride was over Gnat ran out of Harley jokes (not really!)
- Huckleberry's paintings almost became roadside art due to a failing bungee cord. I stayed directly behind Casper who stayed on the far side of the lane we were in until we pulled over.
- There is a long tunnel at the end of the Ken-O between the Ome and Hinode exit that at a certain speeds just like those racing games for Xbox or PS2. Adrenaline is a wonderful thing after 6 hours of expressway monotony!

- Rainman, his wife, and his mother were the epitome of a perfect host. I cannot thank them enough for welcoming us into their home and treating us as well as they did!

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!