

KCMC & Friends,

Part 2 of the ride report will be the return trip last Monday. The ride stats are from the entire weekend combined.

The Riders:

Casper	1200 Sporty
Huckleberry	HD Glide
Gnat	Suzuki GSF1200S Bandit

The ride:

The plan was to get up at 5 a.m. and be on the road by 6 headed to Yakota to gas up then get on our way, and every thing was going just fine. We left at 6:10 with Rainman leading and didn't hit any real traffic all the way to Yakota. We thanked Rainman again for being such a wonderful host and he left for home. We decided to grab a quick bite at BK's and when we went to leave Hucks bike said NO! Actually it wouldn't start again so Casper went to pick up some jumper cables while Huck and I tinkered with the big blue beast. We must have had a little FM with us because it did start so we got gas and we're on the road by 9:15; notice a trend yet?

We jumped on the Ken-O and from there the Ken-Etsu (Cost ¥1,200) followed by the Gaikan expressway (Cost ¥400) and finally the Tohoku express-way. Our plan was to try and go 100 miles between stops to get back as quickly as possible, you know, just pound out the miles. Right? About 50 miles out Huck's pulling into a gas station. WTF? His clutch is slipping. We agree to take it nice and easy and press on. During the last 100 miles or so Casper's bike didn't want to run right as he had to keep on the throttle when stopped or the bike would die. He did make it home OK.

Oh, by the way it was cold, like 8* C and it was raining. Not the nice drizzly stuff we had on Friday, this was a steady rain that at speed sounded like a drummer was playing wipe-out on your helmet. Eventually the cold and wet started winning and we were limiting our stops to 50-70 miles so we could warm up. Each stop took at least 30 minutes to stop shivering.

We got a little concerned as we pulled onto the Hachinohe Express way and the temperature sign showed 1*C and we weren't in the mountains yet. The pace slowed considerably. We finally made it back to Misawa (Cost ¥10,500) around 7:45 p.m.

The numbers for the weekend:

Based on my Gamin Etrex Vista GPS:

Traveled 1814 Km (1127 Miles)

Moving time: 21.5 hours

Max speed 161 kph (100 mph)

Moving speed avg: 83 kph (51.6 mph)

Ascended 39825 feet

Max Elevation 2581 feet

Based on my Suzuki Bandit odometer and gas receipts:

Traveled 1148.1 miles – My speedometer/odometer is a little optimistic

Consumed 30.3 Gallons of gas

Giving me 37.9 miles per gallon for which I paid 116.05

This works out to be \$3.06 per gallon, based on a 116 to 1 Yen/Dollar conversion rate.

On the ride:

- It was cold.

- It was wet.
- It got colder.
- It got wetter.
- When wearing a full face helmet in a cold rain some face shields don't defog very well. The fix is to open the face shield about ½ inch. This will allow the fog to clear but will allow a certain amount of rain and wind blast into the helmet and may cause brain freeze and a strong flow of snot.
- There is no such thing as warm water proof motorcycle gloves or boots.
- Water will run uphill in a strong wind reaching top of your rain pants and soaking your belly.
- Harley's break. I don't predict that I will ever own one. That's just my own opinion based on personal observations.
- Does popping wheelies on 800 lb. Harley Dressers cause premature clutch failure?
- If I had to do the whole weekend over again, I'd do it in a heartbeat!

Thanks again Rainman and family, and D Rush for a great rally!

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!