

Turkey Trot 2005

Well it sure was fun but since it was the first tour on the new bike I thought I needed to sum up a bit.

The bike was fine. I had a bit of trouble with the Indexing at first but a call to the local bike shop cleaned that up. Remember, I bought this used and it hadn't been ridden lately. I will take it in ASAP for a post ride check up and see if anything else is in need of a tune up.

I did not like ... read more of Turkey Trot 2005

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the ride of the tires -Kenda Kwest- that came on the bike. You have to remember that I come from a Trek 520 set up for touring. I have always ridden on Conti TT2000's and they only need 60-70 PSI. I found the 100-PSI requirement of the Kenda tires to be first, a bit harsh, and second, a lot harder to blow back up after a flat. I have a small hand pump I carry on the road so this was not an ideal situation. I did in fact have only one flat-first day naturally-and it may have been the result of an error on my part. I had drilled out the valve stem holes to accommodate Schrader valves and may have left some metal shavings in the tire. This could certainly cause a flat. The tires had good grip and roll, just felt too hard for me. I have since switched to Conti CONTACT tires and they are as good as the Conti TT. Only need 60 PSI.

I did like the action of the twist grip shifters, and I was prepared not to. I have been using bar end shifters for the last 5100 miles of loaded touring and did not expect to enjoy the change. Very satisfactory way to do it. I ride with my hands sort of draped over the bar so shifting was a matter of ½ " movement. The longer gears on this bike also impressed me. When I got the TREK 520 it did not have what I considered low enough gears. I had the seller swap out the front crank for a Mountain Bike one that reduced the size from 52 44 34 to 44 34 20. This was a godsend in the mountains of Washington State. I really don't think I could have hauled my aging butt up those passes without the lower gears. As my current

plans do not include much mountain climbing for the next ride I think I am gonna leave things alone for now. The current setup is 52 44 30. This is a bit high for mountains but nice on the flats. The pannier set up I chose for this ride was my two large Madden bags on the rear, hanging off a Bruce Gordon rear rack. Rock solid and all worked fine. The front was a smaller set of Arkel bags-T/22 I think- hanging from a Bruce Gordon Low Rider rack. This was the only problem I had with bags or racks. The rack is bullet proof but was never intended for mounting on a 20" wheel. I did move the bag mounting some to raise the bags up one and half inches but I still feel it is a bit low. I am going to try out a midship rack next and see if this is better. As I am still a very new 'bent rider, I was a bit wobbly on starts. If I pulled the handlebars too far to one side or the other when beginning, the bags tended to drag the ground and make the start up even less impressive. I will try the other rack or move the bags up higher to see how they respond. I am concerned about how high I can go without messing up center of gravity on the front wheel.

I used the 1.5L water bottles I already had but they did not work out well for me. I would need to change the mounting. I hung them one on each side of the seat. I was only able to access one pre-drilled screw hole so the water cages tended to rotate. This resulted in dropping both water bottles to the roadway. I liberated an unused Camelbak from my son-in-law and will try this next. There are two set ups for water bottle on the handlebars. I was able to use one of them and found it quite handy. I will have to work on the other one as the cross bar we built for the bag interferes with being able to secure the cage.

Speedo, again from the TREK, was mounted too low for my bifocal eyes. This was caused by it's being a wireless version. They only have a transmitting distance of about 12-16 inches. Due to the way a recumbent is designed this does not allow for handlebar mounting. I also found that I messed not having a

cadence function on the current speedo. I will investigate what might work from a wired unit and see about installing it.

My butt didn't hurt. My wrists didn't hurt. My neck didn't hurt. What more can I say about that? I did have pain and tiredness in my thighs and lower legs. I always do after riding 72 miles a day.

Disc brakes were very new to me. You should go get them on your bike. They work. I did have a bit of difficulty getting the wheel remounted after changing my one flat. The problem was getting the disc lined up in the slot correctly so that the calipers would not drag. I think this is mainly a "new to me" issue.

I found it very easy to move the seat to try different locations on the bike. I did end up setting the nose of the seat pointing up more than I started with. This made it much more comfortable to drop the infinitely adjustable back of the seat to a more reclining position.

I had already decided to use my SPD sandals and was able to adjust to the different accessing position with no difficulty. No problems there.

Being lower to the ground was weird but I didn't feel in danger. EVERYBODY I encountered saw me and stared. Of course I do carry a lot of gear.

Just flat liked it. Can barely wait to take another, much longer, tour. PG