



Fuel and 10% Alcohol

After a long summer and a hot one, many people are planning trips. Last month I gave you tips about if you have trouble. This month some advise to keep you from having trouble. We may have spoken about this before but I want to remind you again. Some of you are making plans to travel and enjoy the cooler weather .You may have to stop somewhere and buy fuel that has alcohol in it.

If so don't panic. If you use the alcohol fuel make sure it does not stay in the tank. In other words use it immediately. Alcohol does not store well in your motorcycle fuel tank. It does absorb any water in the tank and suspends itself evenly in the alcohol. That in itself is not a bad thing. Where water and fuel separate water mixes quite well with alcohol. Some of the products you buy to get rid of water in the fuel tank are nothing more than alcohol. I often wondered how much water it is supposed to get rid of. It can and does work by keeping the water from separating from the fuel allowing it to get passed through the fuel system because it is suspended in the alcohol. The alcohol mixes well with gasoline. Go figure!

While I am on the subject of additives in the fuel most of the time they are not needed and do very little. One additive that does work is fuel stabilizer. It is a miracle chemical that saves you money. I don't know how it works but it keeps fuel from separating and becoming varnish. If you have any experience with varnish you know why it is not good for your fuel system. When gasoline is stored without additives it breaks down quickly and leaves behind a heavy duty residue that many times requires carburetors to be removed and cleaned or the injectors replaced on fuel injected models.

Some data has suggested that gasoline only has about a 30 day shelf life when vented to atmosphere (fuel tank). My experience is it might be less when

mixed with ethanol. I don't have good proof of this other than what customers have told me and that folks would be fact. Customers never ever lie! Remember that you are saving the world by putting blended fuel in your motorcycle. The alcohol fuel you are using that came from corn is how we are going to save ourselves from the evil forces that control the oil. Never mind that we probably used more fuel manufacturing the ethanol than we save. That corn we raised used a lot of diesel fuel.

But from what I read over half the gasoline in the United States is blended and more to come. Recently Oklahoma rejected a law stating all fuel will have alcohol in it. We are one of a few states that it is not mandated. With all that being said take a trip to Colorado and you will use blended fuel.

Here is some good solid advice. Buy some Stabill fuel stabilizer and install it in every tank of fuel you use. If you happen to buy blended fuel it is super cheap insurance. I priced it out for you and it will add about 20 cents a gallon to your fuel cost.

Take a 3000 mile trip get 30 mpg and it will cost you about \$20. You don't have to do this but this will keep you from having any issues. If you could see how good this stuff works you would be a believer too. It is a great product that guaranteed will save you money in the long run. In the mean time don't buy that alcohol stuff that saves the world (it won't). When you are in a state that thinks it will slip a little fuel stabilizer in, don't worry about it. Remember we Okies are smarter than the rest of the country.

Ray Jones,
Service Manager
405.273.1400
Shawnee Honda
99 W Interstate Pkwy,
Shawnee, OK