

Samrats Ride report for Sunday 26 Feb 2012

Jim's ride to the Barossa / Tail end Charlie Peter

The weather was a bit suspect with 37 predicted and rain probable but 18 hardy souls gathered at BP Evandale for a days ride north and we were not disappointed. Most riders were the trusty regulars but we also had some we had not seen for a while and 2 new riders showing our fame must be spreading. The day turned out to be a great ride with the temperature not getting higher than about 32 and hardly a drop of rain fell on us because as luck would have it we rode around the banks of rain clouds.

Jim led us up Montacute Road which we had not been along for quite a few months. Once you reach the Black Hill Conservation Park the road becomes nice and twisty for a lot of kilometers. Then onto Lobethal Rd with more great Adelaide Hills twisties through Lobethal, Gumeracha, Birdwood and onto Mount Pleasant for morning tea. Some of the group missed a turn as the corner marshal did not have the indicator on to turn left and they went straight ahead. As all the roads going north end up at Mount Pleasant it did not matter much and we were soon all together again for morning tea.

From Mount Pleasant we turned right onto the Sanderson, Angus Valley, Walker Flat Rd and then turned off on the Sedan Rd before going as far as Walker Flat. Heading east the banks of dark clouds were dumping a lot of rain on the other side of the Murray but we turned north and could see the rain fading into the distance in the rear view mirror. The twisties were over for a while and we had some great long straight stretches of road to annihilate. After Sedan we climbed the hill to Keyneton where the road has some great curves up the hill. The wind was now quite strong making for an interesting and demanding journey up the hill. We usually come down the hill to get to Sedan and Swan Reach which is a fantastic ride and view on the way down. Some riders reckon going up this type of curvy hill is more fun than going down but on this day the wind nearly blew us off the road. Angaston for lunch at the bakery café.

A few had to get back after lunch and about 15 of us took some great motor cycling back roads to Eden Valley and then took the Williamstown Road from Springton, then on to Kersbrook for a fuel stop and short rest. The weather was really not very hot by this time as the cooler change was starting to come through. Kersbrook to Cudlee Creek then left to Fox Creek Rd to Lenswood. Swamp Rd and Oakwood Rd which then brought us back to civilization at Balhannah for afternoon tea at the usual café.

A great day's ride with the most pleasant of agreeable company. My trip meter said 234 kms for the day from starting point to finishing point with most riders doing a lot more to get to the start and home from the finish. In my view this was a good effort and a suitable distance for a hot and windy summers day. Thanks to Jim for planning out and leading another excellent motor cycling route and to Peter for being Tail End Charlie.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator