

Samrats ride report for Sun 30 Sept 2012

Ride Leader Jim / Tail end Charlie Les

Even though a few of our club were away for the long weekend and it was a rainy day we still got 20 riders out for Jim's Southern Run. We had 17 regular or almost regular Samrats riders and 3 new riders to welcome along to their first ride with our most esteemed and excellent motor cycling club. Mostly motor cycles and we also had 2 Spyders and another 3 wheeler. While we were waiting for the 10am time to depart the weather rained and was sunny and rained again like an April day in England.

Jim did the safety talk and then we took off along South Rd and turned left into Happy Valley Drive and then took the most direct route to Clarendon to avoid the wet and slippery twisties on the back roads that we usually take. A bit of light rain as we went through the lower hills but not enough to cause any safety issues.

A quick muster up in Clarendon and then we took Bakers Gully Rd, then right into McLaren Flat Rd, then left to go south to meet up with Brookman Rd, then along the more windy Proctor Rd to Nangkita Rd to Mount Compass for morning tea. All these roads Jim led us on are great for motor cycling with a good blend of sweeping curves, sharper turns and straight sections in between and on this day they were in reasonable condition except for gravel on some of the corners and the odd small pot hole from the recent rains.

At morning tea we had our usual chit chat friendly banter and debated on the merits of Delamere Rd as it was reported by some to currently have a poor surface. However we decided to stick with the plan and as it turned out going from the Victor side back to Delamere had an acceptable surface but the other way looked like it needed some larger pot holes repaired and may well be a significant safety concern at this time.

Leaving Mount Compass we travelled south down the main Victor Harbor Rd until turning off onto Crows Nest Rd which has a great view of the coast as you come down to Victor and at the end of the road the right into Waterport Rd then links up with the Victor Harbor Ring Rd to bypass the town and goes straight onto Waitpinga Rd and Range Rd to Delamere. This 50 kilometers is one of the Adelaide regions motor cycling meccas with the best sweeping curves you could wish for and on this day there was very little wind to disturb the enjoyment of this section of our ride.

Another quick muster up at Delamere which did not take long for the last bikes to arrive and we were off travelling north up Main South Rd to Normanville for lunch. At lunch we still had 19 bikes and after a satisfying meal at the bakery, a fuel up for some of us with smaller tanks and we were off for the afternoon ride to Meadows for afternoon tea.

About 3 riders had to get home earlier and took off in the other direction and the rest of us climbed the Carrickalinga Hill, crossed the Myponga Reservoir spillway, took in the great views and onto Main South Rd for a short distance then left into Pages Flat Rd to

Willunga, then taking a right turn into Meadows Rd and back along Brookman Rd to Meadows for afternoon tea.

About 3 other riders split off along the way to get home earlier leaving about 12 of us at the afternoon tea stop. There was a bit more light rain during the afternoon ride but nothing to cause much bother, the temperature was a bit higher than the forecasted 15 and we were all pretty warm anyway as we had to wear adequate wet weather gear.

The ride was about 220kms with extra to get home again and was a great ride day with every one enjoying the ride, the good company and friendship. Many thanks to Jim for planning the excellent route and leading the ride and to Les one of our veteran Samrats who was a ride captain in the late 1980's for going tail end.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator