

Samrats Ride Report for Sun 11 January 2015 – Ride Leader Andy / Tail end Charlie Ken

The weather had been pretty ominous for a few days with the BOM predicting dire floods which did not eventuate, at least not in the Adelaide region. As you probably already know the Samrats are riding every fortnight this year instead of 3 rides per month last year so I was reluctant to cancel this ride due to rain or wind. Luckily the weather improved for Sunday morning with no rain and a prediction of 30C temperature.

The morning was cold enough for the Crafers Deli to be surrounded by cloud and mist at the 9am meeting time but the day warmed up slowly and was warm and about 26C by 1pm. 8 of us came out for the days ride with 1 new rider and 7 of us regulars. The calendar was planned for a Lobethal circuit but this idea was abandoned as the roads were probably covered in debris from the recent bush fires and the fire affected areas were the usual route for a Lobethal circuit. Also the people living in the fire areas probably would not want a pile of tourists gawking at their woes.

After a quick safety talk and instructions Andy volunteered to lead a ride keeping east of Lobethal and away from the fire areas and we took off at 9.30am onto Piccadilly Rd heading north to Greenhill Rd, then Basket Range Rd and Lobethal Rd to Lenswood. This gave us a lot of twisties to start the day and I didn't remember that Lobethal Rd is actually quite demanding riding a 400kilogram cruiser. We turned right at Lenswood onto Tiers Rd which is a great ride south to Woodside where we picked up the main Onkaparinga Valley Rd which we continued on to the end and turned right onto Mount Torrens Rd where we went through Mt Torrens and then left at Tungkillo onto Mannum Rd and wound our way up to Mount Pleasant for morning tea. We usually turn right and take a shorter route but going straight ahead on Mannum Rd to Mount Pleasant is actually a very good stretch of MC road.

A rest stop and morning tea at Mount Pleasant and the day was beginning to warm up and time to take off the plastics. Next leg was to Eden Valley on the Angaston Rd where we turned right to Keyneton and right again onto the road to Sedan. Down the scenic and twists and turns of the Sedan Hill which was a great run for all those of us who were not stuck behind a slow truck all the way down. At Sedan we mustered up and hung a right turn towards Mannum where we headed south through Cambrai until reaching Angas Valley Way where we finished our loop, turning left and heading east to Walkers Flat. When we reached the bottom of the hill we turned left and explored the road to Aruma Ski Resort and Wongulla where we had a short rest stop. Most of the boaties and campers had gone home after the holiday period and the river was quite peaceful with only a couple of boats out. Back to Walkers Flat Ferry where some of us got petrol and we crossed the river and turned right to head south through Bow Hill and then to Mannum. We crossed back again on the ferry to Mannum main street for lunch at the fish and chip shop. The road south on the east side of the river from Swan Reach to Mannum is a good run with a great view of the Murray winding its way downstream.

After a friendly and laid back leisurely lunch we headed out of Mannum, stopped at the BP for fuel and took the Adelaide Mannum Mount Rd back to Palmer completing another loop of the journey. The road up through the Palmer Rocks always satisfies except for a couple of us at the back of the ride who were again stuck behind a slow truck for most of the way. Once through Palmer we hung a left turn at Tungkillo back onto Mount Torrens Rd and retraced our way back to Onkaparinga Valley Rd through Charlestown, Oakbank, Woodside and to Balhannah for afternoon tea. 6 of us got to the end of the ride which was about 300kms start point to Balhannah including the new rider who did a great job on a L plate Lams approved 650. A great ride day with very pleasant warm, but not too hot conditions. We all had an enjoyable day with good vibes and a laid back and easy going time which is how it should be on these social rides.

Many thanks to Andy for leading the ride and to all the riders who came out on the day and keep the ride group going as a very positive experience.

Ken King Samrats Coordinator.