

Dear SABERS,

Here is my ride report for the Northern Run – 6 August, 2010 (and this one as Ride Leader!!!)

Well I was a little apprehensive about being ride leader

A: not having a GPS on the bike!

B: the weather was looking a tad crappy!

Even a week before the ride the forecast was not telling me a Sunny & Fine, but still the ride must be planned. Thanks to Fred and his awesome software and effort, a ride route was forged and set. It looked like a nice 250 kilometre ride with some great locations to ride thru and some great stops to be social.

As normal pre ride day nerves (more so cause I am in front). BOM Adelaide issued storm warnings, just what you don't want to hear the night before a ride – will anybody come? A few thru the week have already declined and then, 4:30 am, storm warning cancelled! So all set for 9am at civic park I arrived a bit earlier than normal to find a car park full of shiny machines, loads of people talking & waiting – not for me! And then they all just disappear soon after my arrival – where are they going? But it was the Ulysses motor bike club and the Triumph car club: good to see some great machines briefly about to enjoy a less than perfect day!

As normal there are enough hard core members in the SABERS Family (Michael Tony, Matt, Fred, Brenton, Trish and me) to go for a ride and prepared to get our bikes possibly wet and dirty!! EXCEPT FOR 1 MEMBER! A CERTAIN VP? whose machine looked liked it was ready for a new set of tread front and rear. In the interest of safety he removed himself from the ride, to his own disappointment, and reacted in a positive way by asking where is the nearest tyre shop? Always keen for a ride there was only one place open on a Sunday and that is at Victor harbour 120 klm away in the other direction south Ha!!!

As we watch the 2nd in charge ride off on the sweet sounding piece of poultry we geared up for a great day out....

No corner Marshalls, no tail end Tony, no orange vest for me as there was only 6 of us riding wow the smallest ride I've ever been on? But wait a Honda rolled up with a Ulysses sticker on board looking for a ride which we promptly informed himself and pillion daughter that they had been left behind. He had no intention to ride with them due to age restrictions rule and was going to ride SABERS (cool) so that makes 8 (awesome)

As we set off the weather is dicey, leaf litter everywhere but taking care to not get caught up in it. The roads are wet around Chain of Ponds, so nice easy pace to get into the groove, and as we get out further, the roads are dry out thru Kersbrook and Williamstown.

First thing I noticed loads of water and very green, postcard perfect and to my surprise not cold as i had rugged up with thermalulite underwear!!!! The first stop in Mt Pleasant just in time to miss the rain shower as we pulled in for hot coffee and brunch usual plenty of space in the quaint but cosy pub, food was very good the cake was just great, fire burning

Drinking coffee eating meals waiting for the sun to come out

After Mount Pleasant we carried on towards Swan Reach ferry giving the bikes a good run, well almost as I make to keep going towards Mannum? Thankfully Fred knew where i wanted to go, he pulled up in the right direction up the hill to the pub, this bit i didn't do on a pre run as i never being to swan reach before so i could be excused for that error (sheltered life).

The Swan reach pub for lunch! this is a great spot for dining, great meals and fantastic views got there in good spirits everybody chatting and having a swell time ,a quick picture (Ha the only one all day lol). After lunch were off to Walker Flat for fuel and a ferry ride and whilst on the ferry the ferryman told us to watch out for the dog box buzzing around. He had even been on the ferry earlier on taking samples of breath whilst on the ferry going to the other side – talk about a captured market! As we fuel up Robbe shared a story about the dog box and his breath sampling way and also a please explain notice !!!! It was great to catch up with Robbe and also, this makes 9. Time to head off to Mannum.

The ride hit full swing as i had Robbe and the rest of the gang filling my mirrors as we pull into the BP at Mannum where we find our favourite VP Brenton holding up the dog box and the local sergean, catching up with the latest dramas in the area. Awesome – at least he's keeping them busy while we ride!!!!!!

And how's that NEW TREAD (attack tyres) well i suppose we have to let him ride with us now so that makes 10 – double digits .. JUST GREAT!!!!

The weather is ok but not so flash? As we head into Lobethal I broke the golden rule: keeping together. I got impatient behind a sheep truck dropping excrement on the road and smelling foul, overtaking and never to be seen again except for Brenton and Robbe who managed to keep up. As the rain drops start falling I miss the turn leaving Robbe marshalling on a corner when no one is coming because yet again Fred knew were to go! And lead the group around the corner before bound for the last stop of the day.

I take the VP on a mystery ride around the block on an extended ride 25 klm around Lobethal Sorry Brenton I know you love riding in the rain instead of drinking coffee with Fred and the other members waiting for us at the Amber Light. As we pull in i see Fred smiling at me and making funny jesters as we walk in. WOW more members alli cat and co also friend from Canberra waiting so that makes 12 .. 1 dozen great!!!!

Where is robbe Shit!! still on a corner Sorry Robbe i feel like a bastard leaving you there, but in the wrap up it was a crappy day for a ride but I stilled enjoyed it and toughed it out till the end.

Cheers Mark