

Swan Reach Run

Saturday 6th August 2011

Saturday morning was predicted as possible showers with about 30 knot winds and rain later in the day. And wouldn't you know it the weather bureau was not far wrong for once.

Initially on waking, it was raining and the thought of a ride cancellation crossed my mind. However, after a shower and morning coffee things had improved slightly, so I set off for the BP West Terrace the designated start point.

While numbers were a bit down due to the forecast and being a Saturday ride, around 15 bikes were assembled pre start. Given that four of our number who normally would have been starters, were absent doing the Iron Butts ride to Border Village, the numbers were still pleasing.

We must send a G'Day to Ian Armstrong who was scheduled to lead this ride but unfortunately, broke his ankle whilst attempting to ride a scooter. I say attempting, because he obviously couldn't handle the **reduced** power. Hope you are back on the REAL bike soon Ian.

Both Bec and Fred were delayed with flat batteries. Happily, both made the start, although not in the best of moods after the mornings' tribulations. It didn't take very long with the group however to put smiles back on their faces and we set off on the first leg of the run up Green Hill Road to Lobethal our first stop.

This section of road was quite wet and weather misty, making for a sensible trundle to the Amber Light Café to for the morning coffee and newly discovered "Mint Slices". Definitely a smile back on Bec's face now "YUM".

Mark joined us at Loby – you may be able to work out how that came about!!!

The next leg to Walkers Flat and on to Swan Reach took us through Mount Torrens, Birdwood and Mount Pleasant. And the weather was far more pleasant and apart from some damp patches and a reasonably strong wind we were able to enjoy a brisk run to the Walker's Flat ferry. I think I was the only one who may have had a bit of excitement on this leg, when I hit a false neutral going down Cambrai Hill. Thanks to Paul (and Son) for being awake when a rather sudden heavy braking manoeuvre was necessary as I found myself free wheeling into a tight right hander as a result. **Note to Self** – Pack spare underwear for next ride.

A big thank you to the very accommodating ferry operator at Walker's Flat, who not only held the ferry until the whole group was assembled ready for the crossing, but also stopped the ferry short of landing and raised the front ramp just so Son and Daniel could get a couple of decent photo's of the group. "Thanks mate", much appreciated by all of us.

Next stop was the store at Swan Reach for fuel, FUEL what's that? Nah we don't got any of that stuff here!! I think Walker's Flat and Sedan will be the designated Fuel stops depending on direction of travel in future, not worth the risk of running out.

Oh well, at least the Pub had food. After being joined by Garry who (no Mark, he didn't sleep in) had ridden to Pt Pirie with the SABERS Iron Butt group and then headed back to Swan Reach to join the rest of us for lunch. We enjoyed a great feed, which was up to its usual excellent standard.



Owing to the fuel absence at Swan Reach we made an unscheduled fuel stop at Sedan both for fuel and discussion about the silver low flying UFO seen by all on the stretch from Swan Reach to Sedan. The object was estimated to be travelling at no less than MACH II and it was decided after long deliberation and mathematical calculations over velocity and assumed fuel consumption, time and space continuum etc. to name this object the "Virtual Form Revelation" or VFR for short. We will keep you posted on any future sightings of this astounding phenomenon.



The run from Sedan to Gumeracha looked as though it may have resulted in a soaking but we were fortunate and rounded the whole rain band with the exception of some light showers before Mount Pleasant. Our next stop after a re group in Mount Pleasant was at Gumeracha where a few SABERS from the northern suburbs said their farewells rather than heading back into town.



The home stretch to CIBO at North Adelaide was reasonably good with some damp road sections, but all in all still enjoyable. The run was rounded out with the usual relaxing coffee and chat.

Thanks to everyone who attended and a welcome to our three visitors Daniel, Daniel (no not a stutter) and Rowdy. We hope you enjoyed the ride and will join us again soon. Thanks to everyone who marshalled corners. Our new non vested marshalling seems to be working well now and we didn't lose anyone at all.

A big thanks also to Bec for taking tail end Charlie in Tony's absence. Good job Bec in windy and damp conditions. Thanks as well must on this occasion go to the "Bitch in The Box" for not taking any wrong turns. Wonders never cease.

Must also mention the two new bikes unveiled by Jonathon and Peter this run "NICE".

Sorry Pete, it is beautiful but green still isn't my colour. As it's a KWAKA you are forgiven.

Michael Cini was pleased to see another Harley rider as a potential member in Rowdy. Was that a tear I saw in your eye Michael?

All in all a great day and I look forward to seeing you all on the next SABERS ride.



Cheers
Brenton