

Eastern Ride – Saturday 2nd August 2008

6am and the alarm is buzzing incessantly, time to get up. The ride gear is out, ready to throw on as always on a ride day but the decision hasn't yet been made on wet weather gear or not yet, so there is bike gear everywhere.

First task of the day is to put the kettle on then journey outside to check the weather. I no sooner put my hand on the door knob and the heavens opened up, it was pouring down. Not a good omen, so armed with a coffee, I went and started up the computer for a more detailed idea of what to expect, then headed outside while the pc booted up. Black nasty clouds covered the sky and I was wondering if we would have to call the ride off as I didn't really like the idea of going through chain of ponds in the wet.

Once the computer had booted up I had a look at the weather forecast in detail and what it was telling me didn't match with what I was seeing outside. Light drizzle, less than 1mm it said, hmmm well I thought, their idea of light drizzle and the torrential rain I had in my yard didn't quite match. Well there were a couple of hours to go to see what was going to happen with the weather.



After loading the tank bag onto the bike and donning the wet weather gear (I was not going to repeat the Robertstown ride experience, lol) I headed off to pick up Bec who was eager to join us for the ride. Going to Bec's house I was pointed directly at the hills and didn't really like what I saw as the hills were mostly hidden by clouds and so I began thinking of running the ride in reverse so we could do the awesome chain of ponds section in the afternoon when the weather should have cleared. Something to discuss with the group when we get to Civic Park I thought. Well Bec was ready when I arrived and the wet weather wasn't going to put her off :) good onya Becca, true SABERS style lol.

Bec and I headed off toward Civic Park and had no sooner set off and the `light drizzle` started bucketing down again, thankfully it didn't last to long and we got to the meeting point reasonably dry. We had arrived early and weren't to surprised to see we were the only ones there, so we had a bit of a chat while we waited.

It wasn't to long before we heard the roar of a bike heading toward us and Darrin had arrived, smiling from ear to ear as always at the prospect of a ride. Time ticked by and it was looking like just the 3 of us were going to do this one, the weather was beginning to clear and we had decided to take the planned route through chain of ponds but do it very cautiously. Some jokes were made about Bec wearing the Orange lead vest and Darrin the tail end Charlie vest with just the 3 of us on the ride lol.

Well the clocked had ticked over to about 09:29:59 and Darrin and I decided to have one last

ciggie before we geared up and headed off. Just as well we have this nasty habit as suddenly another 5 bikes rolled in, haha it was going to be a good day.

After having a brief chat we decided to head off, with everyone agreeing to take it very easy through the ponds section of the ride. It was nice to take this road at a more leisurely pace than we normally do as the scenery through this section of road is fantastic. We wound our way through with no dramas and little traffic and were soon at Gumeracha where we had our first stop, more chat was had and then we were off again heading for Walker Flat. The ride from Gumeracha through to Angus Valley is excellent, with some great sweeping bends before hitting a mind numbing straight section heading past the Sedan turn off through to Walker Flat.

Walker Flat was our next stop where we all had a bit of a leg stretch and Dash, our camera man for the day, took some more pics. Dash was well set up with a stills camera as well as a helmet cam, hope he didn't catch anything incriminating on either of them lol. Some confusion did occur when Dash flew past us to get ahead and film us as we went past. Great idea but some of us thought he had broken down as he waved to us and pulled over to see what was wrong :) hahaha you wont get left behind on a SABERS ride.

After Walker Flat we headed off toward Swan reach before turning off to Blanchetown, Darrin was relieved to see I actually turned in the right direction this time lol. I had a bit of a moment the week before when we did the pre ride (much to Darrin's delight) and he made sure I wasn't going to go the wrong way again.

The road into Blanchetown is another pipe clearing stretch and Marks Hyosung & the Kwaka 250 were pulled along in the bigger bikes slip stream :)

We all pulled up at the roadhouse at Blanchetown for lunch, fuel and another leg stretch. Lots of chat as usual and keeping an eye on the ever present rain clouds. During this stop we noticed a person had locked their keys in the car after changing a tyre and he was trying desperately to get into his car using a piece of wire. Dash went to the rescue with a claim of thirty seconds to get the door open, after 5 minutes, heckling was heard from the rest of the SABERS crew regarding the 30 second guarantee hahaha. Ten minutes later Dash returned shame faced and the door was still firmly locked. As we were gearing up to head off to Nuriootpa which was our next stop we heard the car alarm go off, don't know if the owner finally jimmed the lock or used the old red key (house brick) on a window lol.

At Nuriootpa we had another leg stretch. Mark became the centre of attention when Dash pointed out that he was wearing rubber boots, lol. Sounds funny but Mark had been on the Robertstown run as well and did not want to have water sloshing back and forth in his boots again as he did that day, so who can blame him for being creative :).

The weather held for us most of the day with just a couple of the forecast showers catching us and not downpours thankfully. Seven bikes and one pillion, no one lost no breakdowns or accidents and a fun day out. Thanks to all of you who came along and made the day so enjoyable.

Don't forget the Tungkillo pub run coming up Sunday August 17th. It's another great ride that you won't want to miss, so please check the events calendar and free up some time to join us.

We just want to ride!

Grant

SABERS VP

