

SABERS MILANG RIDE

Sunday 20th January 2008

Welcome to 2008 and what a perfect first ride for our SABERS 2008 ride calendar!

The weather forecast was favourable for the ride so when I left I grabbed all my summer gear and headed off to town.

I was running early so I decided to do a quick run through the foothills from Gawler and come out at the Old Spot at Hillbank. HEHE it was a good excuse to use the rubber on the edges of the tyres... well, you pay for it you might as well use it!

I pulled into the BP West Tce and even though I was early I wasn't the first one there.

Seeing this is a great feeling as you can tell that we are going to get good numbers for the ride and the people turning up are coming early to socialise. That's the great thing about SABERS; we are all there to have fun and we all love a good chat - I know I do! I was chatting away with everyone and 10am came and I hadn't done the rider's briefing so the marshals came up and told me to get on with things.

We called everyone in for a briefing and then we were off.

The ride headed down West Tce and then onto Greenhill Road. Greenhill Road is a great way to start a ride as it's nice and twisty. The ride went up to Carey Gully then turned off at Deviation Road and headed to Lobethal where we pulled up at the Amberlight Café for a coffee and a chat. It was great to see the ride group pull in as there were only 3 bikes in the main street and then 40 SABERS riders pulled in and filled the street Awesome!

It was funny to see the amount of guys head in for coffee and hot chocolate as we got to the top of Greenhill Road as it was mighty cold and damp. The liners were going into jackets and it was at this time I was wishing that I had repacked mine into the bike. Luckily that was going to be the only cold section of the ride.

All too soon we were back on our bikes and off to Milang. We had a short section to Woodside where we turned off to Nairne. Thanks to the couple of guys that gave us the heads up about the cop with the hair dryer. Not that we needed it as we were just cruising along at the posted speed limit.

At Nairne we took the turn off to Mt Barker the back way. It's a nice straight road and a good way to pull the group up together. It's better doing it this way

rather than pull up at every town and the riders prefer it as they ride and not sit around waiting.



The next section from Mt Barker to Milang goes though Wistow, Woodchester and Langhorne Creek. This section has some nice open roads with big sweeping corners.

After Langhorne we headed off to Milang... Well sort of. I was in a dream world and running through my next service I was going to do on my Blackbird then oops I missed the Milang turn off so it was on the brakes and turn the group around and back to the Milang turn off. It's not everyday that the ridescaptain misses a turn... haha there's a first!

This section is very flat and open. Lots of big sweepers here too.

When we arrived at Milang some of us went to the pub others to the bakery and some of the group went to the deli. There was something there for all budgets and tastes. I try to do this for most of the rides we do. I went to the pub and had a great meal. As for the others, they had a good feed too.



After lunch we headed off to Strathalbyn where some of the group stopped for premium fuel then we rode through Macclesfield and finally the Meadows Bakery.

The roads through here are nice and twisty and a nice way to finish a ride. More coffee and chat



I said goodbye to guys as they left then soon it was time for me to head home too.

My route home to Gawler was via Hahndorf to Lobethal, Cuddly Creek, Kersbrook and finally Gawler. It's one of the great roads to go home. There are other ways but they take longer and I wanted to get home.

From all accounts this ride was a success and I have planned a slight modification to it for next year.

SABERS quick ride wrap up

The ride went off without a hitch.

40 riders and several pillions - every one is welcome.

Lots of great roads = lots of smiles

I am pleased to say there were no instances to report.

The photos from the ride are now up in the gallery.

If you have any photos, please send them to us and we will post them up for you.

We look forward to seeing you on our next ride ...