

Samrats ride report for Sunday 22 April 2012

Ride Leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Gordon

The weather did look suspect in the morning and there was a BOM prediction of 60% chance of rain in the Adelaide area but our ride was going east to the Murraylands and then to the Mallee region where there was only a 20% chance of rain.

As it turned out we did the 250km ride and only got a few sprinkles of rain on 3 occasions for few minutes each. I told the small mob that if I wore all the rain gear and sweated to death then Mrs Murphy would make sure it hardly rained at all which she kindly did.

Six of us took off from BP Mount Barker with pretty heavy clouds above us but by the time we had traversed the excellent motor cycling roads to Winchester and then Callington the sun was out, the day was warm and the rain was, as predicted swinging south south east and we blasted along east of the rain belt. The Old Princes Highway to Murray Bridge is also a nice cycling road and we pulled up at the servo on the other side of the bridge for a rest and morning tea.

We made a left onto the Mannum Loxton road out of Murray Bridge and then a right onto the Karoonda road which was very bumpy and undulating last year. However this year the 60 kms of this road had been vastly improved with only about 10 kms still with lots of unevenness. Finding a road in SA that has actually been improved in the last year is nothing short of miraculous as most of our roads in the Adelaide region are the same degenerating goat's tracks that they have always been. This is a great 60 kms stretch with lots of straights sections and some banking curves and it no longer bounces bike and rider into the sky.

Karoonda for lunch where the bakery in the main street opposite the Big Ram has better than average food. A nice lunch and chit chat and then instead of going to Lameroo and back along the Mallee Highway we back tracked 23kms and took a left along a back road into Tailem Bend which has a good surface, good corners and is good fun. A fuel stop at Tailem Bend and along the Princes Highway to Wellington, across the Murray on the ferry which we rode straight onto in contrast to the last crossing where we waited for half an hour for tourists and grey nomads.

Langhorne Creek Rd is a favorite hike, then onto Strathalbyn, then Paris Creek Rd with excellent rises, falls and corners to navigate and on to Meadows for afternoon tea. The wind was stronger from Wellington in contrast to earlier in the day when there was virtually none. A bit of wind on the last leg and a few cars to pass on the way back to Meadows was a small load to carry considering the relative absence of the four wheeled menaces for most of the day.

The six of us had a great and enjoyable ride day and were home by about 3.30 pm in time to do a few jobs around the house and keep the family happy. Thanks to Gordon who did a great tail end Charlie job and to all the riders who turn up on the day to have some fun.
Ken King Samrats Coordinator