

Samrats ride report for Sun 8 June 2014

Ride leader Ken / Tail end Charlie Nasef

The 3 monthly rides calendar had a ride to Blanchetown for this day but as a number of us were away the previous weekend in the Blanchetown to Barmera area I decided at the suggestion of riders who happened to not turn up on the day, to make the destination Moonta. The mid north MRA register contacted me once they saw the change on the web site and we agreed to meet up at 11.30am in Port Wakefield for a ride together to Moonta.

10 of us turned out at the BP Evandale start point with a mix of old hands and newer Samrats riders. The day looked fine and sunny with no rain forecast and we took off after a quick safety talk. I had remembered that the meeting time was 9am when organising the day but it was actually 9.30am departing at 10am so getting to Port Wakefield by 11.30am via the planned route was overly optimistic. We usually go to Yorke Peninsula from a Bolivar start point so going via the hills to Port Wakefield was going to be a lot longer.

We got into the hills via Payneham Rd to Montacute Rd and onto Gorge Rd which is still an enjoyable ride at the speed limit except for the ever deteriorating condition of the road surface on the bottom half where there is a lot of unevenness, cracking and broken sections especially on the inside of the corners. From Gorge Rd we took Little Parra Rd past the Chain of Ponds and then left to Kersbrook.

Next leg was Kersbrook Rd to One Tree Hill Rd and straight ahead to Gawler where we had a quick rest stop. Out of Gawler via Redbanks Rd and on to Malala Rd and then to Balaklava. This made for a lot of straight roads after our morning dose of twisties on Gorge Rd. Left turn at Balaklava to reach Port Wakefield at 12.15pm.

We met up with a few of the mid north MRA members who I hope were not too disgruntled with our lateness. They then led us on the quickest way to Moonta so we could get lunch at a reasonable hour. We went via Kulparra and then turned left off the main road before Kadina to cut across the peninsula to come into Moonta through Yelta. Moonta Bay was the next stop for lunch at one of the seafood cafes near the beach and jetty. The food was great but the new owners were a bit disorganised and took so long to serve that a couple of us shared meals and gave up and got a refund as it was time to go.

We lunched with the mid north crew who made good company and we discussed meeting up again for some more group rides and having an over nighter somewhere on Yorke Peninsula so we could have time for a ride around the bottom half which we don't usually get to on a day ride. By the time lunch was done it was about 3pm and time to leave to get most of the journey back done in daylight. We fuelled up in Moonta and the journey home was via the main road to Kadina and back to Port Wakefield where at about 4pm we said our goodbyes and headed down Port Wakefield Rd. Most of us rode as a group, mindful of the speed cameras and the visible police presence on a long week end. An unmarked police car kept just in front of us for the whole length of Port Wakefield Rd which certainly has the effect of slowing down all the traffic to considerably under the speed limit.

The day was probably a bit too long with a home time of about 5.30 to 6pm depending on which part of Adelaide is home as we travelled about 260kms to Moonta and 150 to 200 kms back to Adelaide making for a round trip of 410 to 460 kms for the day. It was good to catch up with the affable mid north crew and plan some more group activities. The weather was kind to us all day but it did get a bit chilly on the homeward run if you didn't have enough layers on.

Thanks to Greg Stevens and David Povey from the mid north and Nasef for going tail end Charlie and to all the riders who came out and braved a rather longer than usual day ride.

Ken King

Samrats Coordinator