

BREAKFAST RIDERS

Jackson 2009 The weather report was dreary with solid chances for rain -- but later in the day. And as the first ride of the year to Sonoma was rained

out, I played the odds and let everyone know that the ride was on for the fool hardy. There were a total of 10 riders that showed up on a chilly morning. That was way more fools than I expected. Did I mention that there was rain expected?

New to the group was Charles Dobbs. The regulars included Ed Buckner, Jaurdan DeJolibois, Steve Dodini, Jim Harrison, James Mickens, Skip Moffatt, George Schjelderup, Frank White, and myself.

We left the gas station and headed for Hwy 12 with Jaurdan bringing up the rear of the pack on his trike. The ride out Hwy 12 was not too bad as traffic allowed us to go near the speed limit. When we got to Hwy 160, I pulled the group over for a quick check on everyone before heading up the levee twists. The speed on Hwy 160 was held down due to traffic, but again not bad. It allowed the group to stay together. I was able to see Jaurdan make the bridge crossing to Grand Island before I got back up to speed. I made the turn onto the Walnut Grove bridge and Jaurdan was not there. I checked with the last riders to see if they saw anything and they said he was there at Ryde -- about 3 miles back. We waited 5-10 minutes and he didn't show. So thinking he split off and headed for home, and knowing that the rain was coming, we headed out. We turned onto E13 and got up to speed (not too fast, 63-ish) and spotted a patrol car on a side road near the bridge. I backed off a little to get down to the 55 limit, and looked behind me to see that the group had really backed down a lot. Must have made me look like a super speeder -- thanks guys! But the patrol car remained parked -- safe. Traffic kept our speeds at or very near the speed limit the whole run out E13/104.

In Ione we pulled into the usual gas station only to find it packed with cars and another group of bikes. I hauled our group over to the other gas station only to find they only had 87 octane and many of our bikes needed the higher octane and had to head back to the first gas station. After I filled up, I only spotted one other bike, Ed. So we rejoined our group and the other bikes back at the first station. There was a Magna in the other group -- yellow and black -- a rare sight. So we two Magna riders had a great conversation. The first group of bikes headed out up Hwy 124 N and we headed out Hwy 104/124 S. Getting into Jackson, we got to Mel and Fayes Diner.

As the weather was still dry, we ordered and ate outside. The service was pretty fast and the food was good. We took a group photo and headed out. In order to save time and beat the rain, we skipped the run around Lake Pardee. James split from the group to do some shopping. Just north of Jackson we got hit by a small rain cell. It was wet enough to get the windshield wet, but not the road. We took quick stop at the Ione gas station for those who needed gas, and for me a candy bar.

Then we got back on the road trying to avoid any more rain. Just out of Ione we got hit by another rain cell. This one was bigger and with heavier rain drops. It still did not get the road real wet. The rest of the run back Hwy 104 was mellow -- and dry. We got onto Hwy 160 and made it into Rio Vista for one more stop. While we rested, James came rolling in. He had bought a couple of Hot Wheels which probably maxed his storage on his sport bike. From there we headed Hwy 12 and to home -- still dry.

