

BREAKFAST RIDERS

Napa: No rain! Nice. We had fifteen bikes show up with new friends of Gary and

Charlotte Alexander, John Maes, and James Sheridan. The regulars included James Mickens, Leo Aquino, Cat Chandler, Steve Dodini, Jim Harrison, Larry Jackson, Mark McCoy, James Mitterer, Skip Moffat, Frank White, Steve Wright, and myself. It was the first time for this shorty run. We took off with James Mitterer as tail gunner (thank you) and headed up the freeway to Cherry Glen. We quickly ran into bicycles and slow traffic on Pleasants Vly Rd. A lot of us passed them when safe and got up to a mild sparky pace. I pulled the group over just before Hwy 128 to re-group. We made the turn onto Hwy 128 and had mostly clear road -- shared with plenty more bicycles. I pulled the group into The Corners for a break of about 15 minutes to get fluids, hit the can, chit-chat, etc. Met some folks riding up to Redding by the back roads... nice day for it. As this was a new route, I was trying my best to follow the planned twists and turns. I made the turn onto Vichy Ave just fine. The turns onto Hagen Rd and 3rd Ave also went fine. But 3rd Ave does a right/left jog that I only got the first part correct. I saw the left turn as I was passing it. Sigh. I made the left turn onto 2nd Ave and paused when I hit Coombsville Rd, Steve Wright noticed my confusion and offered to lead the way back onto the planned course. The real sad thing is I used to live within 3 to 4 miles of that area -- albeit quite a few years ago. Anyways, the back roads provided a nice alternative that went around most of the housing and businesses. We made it to the Black Bear restaurant and saw the parking lot was very full. I saw the lots were full for Denny's and IHOP so...fudge...what the heck. We just bulled on in and they said it would be an hour to seat us all at one spot. Naw. I told them to seat us where they could. Skip, James Sheridan, and me got seated at the counter, another eight (that I saw) got seated at tables. Jim Mitterer and a few got tired of waiting and opted to hit another joint (my guess was IHOP). The food was good and plenty of it...my poor tummy. The first of us finished

and made it out into the parking lot and bided our time to allow everyone to enjoy their food. With the scattered arrangements, I did not get to take a group photo -- dang! A few folks were going to shoot for home, some via the planned route, others by Hwy 29 or Hwy 221. We had about half of the group left to go on the extra twisties I had added. Steve Wright again led the way along Napa's back roads and got us to Dry Creek Rd. The first portion is straight, but soon it became narrow and twisted. Sweet. This road is mostly well paved, but with enough bad sections and various road debris that speeds had to be kept down to somewhat sane. I gathered the group again at the fire station at the top end of Dry Creek before we returned via Mt Vedeer Rd. This is a road that is in dire need of repaving. But it is narrower and tighter than Dry Creek and the views are grand looking across the valley. I gathered the group again where it changes to Redwood Rd. Then we headed back down into civilization -- sigh. I left the group as we got near the freeway and headed for my Father's. A very nice and gentle day of riding.

