

Napa 2010

We had 11 bikes with regulars Steve Wright, Ed Buckner, Mark McCoy, Frank White, Gary & Beth Helm, Skip Moffatt, Greg Leopold, and me. New to the group were Dave Buckner, Matthew Takeda, and Terry Dilleley who joined us at our first stop.

To start off with, I messed up. I forgot my wallet and had to run back home and get it. Ed covered the sign up list (thank you) while I cruised somewhere near the speed limit (t.i.c.). This gave us a late start. Mark covered the tail gunner spot (thank you) as we left Fairfield. Since I was a bit flustered, I made another mistake. I aimed at Hwy 80 west bound when I should have aimed for east bound. I figured it out just before getting on the freeway. But not to worry, we took Lyon Rd to get to Cherry Glen Rd (this will soon be a permanent change for this route). Once on Pleasants Vly Rd, I worked hard to settle down (ommmm). Avoiding a peacock, two sets of wild turkeys, a deer, and a few squirrels made calming down a bit rough.

Even so, I was much better by the time we got to Hwy 128. I favor going this way on this stretch as it keeps us away from the fallen rock debris and the best twisties are uphill. Unfortunately, we hit traffic and ran those good twisties at very moderate speeds. We pulled into The Cross Roads and we took a break.

We left and headed for Napa. Once down off the hill, I pulled the group over to re-gather. I had coordinated with Steve to take over as leader and guide us through the back ways of Napa. Steve also made a mistake and missed the turn for Vichy Rd (See! It's not just me.). He quickly figured it out and got us back on path. We crossed the valley floor and started up the hill on Mt. Veeder Rd. This is a tight and twistied road that could really use repaving. It is one of our roughest and also one of our most technical roads. It provides great views of the valley and the redwood trees. We took a nice break at the top before heading back down Dry Creek Rd. This road is also a whole bunch of fun twisties, but the road is wider by a little and smoother by a lot. Steve again guided us across the valley floor to Bear Creek restaurant.

Last year we hit the restaurant at the peak of their breakfast crush. By adding an hour and a half of riding with Mt. Veeder and Dry Creek before breakfast, I hoped to avoid that. Well it worked to a small degree. It still took maybe 10-15 minutes before they sat us at three booths. The service was nice and pleasant, the food was tasty and plenty, with enough choices to cover everyone's pleasure.

After breakfast, we took group photos - after Gary got gas. Skip left us here as did Steve. The rest of us headed up Hwy 121 to Wooden Vly Rd, where Terry headed his way home. With a last bit of fun twisties, we made it home. A short day, but a fun one.