

BFR Report – Groot Marico Sunrise Monster – 10 April 2011

Finally, the eagerly awaited Sunrise Monster to the West has arrived. In very dark conditions the faithful and tough riders assembled at the Dros. To be exact- 34 bikes and 41 people. Some of our regular pillions were noticeably absent and all sorts of excuses about the cold surfaced. Liesl, the marvellous one, got up very early and had coffee and rusks available for the group seeing that the Dros owner and staff also suffer from the “its cold” syndrome.

Stormin Norman was the Road Captain for the day and explained the seventh version of the route to us all. Scooter was assigned to the back of the pack with Barry and the Missus sweeping when Johan Olivier was drafted in as Marshal. One of the busiest positions of the day was manned by Peter and Antonella de Meyer. But more about them later.

We left the Dros at 06h12 and beat sunrise by a mere eight minutes. Maybe in the future, this route will be known as the “Toll Road Route” as we went through eight toll gates during the ride, effectively meaning HOG-Pta assisting government to maintain the roads. There was a quick stopover at the Magalies Petro Port before we carried on towards Rustenburg. Marshal Annatjie was a bit shaken at that time, not because of an incident but because of a vibration in her Harley.

On the way one rider pulled off followed by a swarm of Biker Buddies, Safety Officers and a Sweep. Biker Buddy Peter’s first call of duty turned out to be a no problem.

That vibration turned ugly in Swartruggens when Annatjie discovered that her back axle was calling it a day. Chivalry was winning the day when Deon allowed her to continue on his bike while he waited for the tow truck to arrive. Biker Buddy Peter’s second call of duty. Deon missed breakfast at the “Wag n Biekie” restaurant in Groot Marico, but all other souls were fed.

It was exactly after breakfast that Scooter took his turn to break down – the first incident in 26,000 km. Some loose wire caused total loss of power. Johann Olivier who is a ‘Harley Fuse’ expert fiddled around and power was restored. At the fuelling station some 800m later it was the same thing again. Biker Buddy Peter’s third call of duty. Some more fiddling with wires and we got it going again.

When we reached the waiting pack in Swartruggens, I decided to leave the pack and ride straight home as Scooter was playing up at starting time. PlusOne Johann took over as Sweep and the pack proceeded to Wigwam for lunch. Lunch was described by all as great and the ride ended without any further incidents – or so I believe as the Historian at that time was enjoying fruits of the grape back home.