

5 MAY 2012

Sunrise Monsters: Vulture Route vs. Battlefield Route

Die son sak agter die berg op Marulakloof, tipiese bosveldgeluide raak aan die stoep. Gefassineerd hou ek 'n mot dop wat sy lang tong uitrol om 'n druppel vanaf my wynglas te suig.

“Kom ons pak op en ry terug Pretoria toe dan ry ons more die Sunrise-monster” kom van die hoek se kant af. Nieteenstaande, dat dit amper twee en 'n half uur se ry Pretoria toe is, pak ons die pad terug met verwagting aan.

Early Sunday morning we arrived at Harley-Davidson Pretoria. There were about 40 bikes parked in the lot and in no time, everybody was ready to leave. We got on our bike and followed the first Marshals to the bollards.

Ek was gelukkig genoeg om weer agter te sit en kon alles ten volle observeer. Ons rit begin deur in die rigting van Johannesburg te ry op die N1, dit is nog redelik donker en die ligte van die motorfietse maak so 'n gloeiende lang wurm soos ons om die draaie gaan. Soos die motors verby ons swiep, word daar selfone en I-pads uitgehaal om die skouspel vas te lê (ek moet sê dat ek steeds hoendervleis daaroor kry). Mense in motors waai en glimlag vir ons.

As we entered the dam area in the Magaliesburg, the sky turned pink and orange. It was awesome; I even took photos on my cell phone. When we arrived at the breakfast venue, we stormed Monique to buy our first pins. We could not wait to attach them on our waistcoats, so that people could see that we also belong to the Harley Early Risers Club or the HERC's as I call it.

Onweerswolke het ernstig begin saampak op die pad terug, en so beleef ons toe ook ons eerste Hoëveldstorm op die motorfiets en ons het nog nie reënjasse besit nie.

Die reën het met sulke vloe neergekom, dat van die ryers onder brûe moes skuiling soek. Weereens was ek so dankbaar dat ek agter die persoon se rug gesit het wat ek met my lewe vertrou. “Kudos” vir Harleystewels, Steven het seker 'n halwe liter water uit hul gegooi toe ons gestop het en hulle word steeds met trots gedra.

We got home drenched, but it felt wonderful to know that we completed what we set out to do: Saturday evening on the farm...



“BATTLEFIELDS AND SHERRY”

Our second Sunrise Monster took place on 5 May 2012 at 5h30 in the morning. This was to be a total different ball game. Winter in Pretoria is mostly not for the faint hearted (must say Bloemfontein is worse); but as we belong to the HERC's we got up and tried to dress as warmly as we could. Believe me that did not help! Again we were not geared for what waited for us “rookies” on the open road...

Needless to say – it was cold- I still can't find the correct words to describe how cold it was... Words that came to mind were “bone-crushing”, “fanny-frosting” “finger-numbing”, “knee-cap-crunching” and as my dear friend, Fanie would say: “FREAKING COLD”.

PS. The language check on word wanted to change his name to Fanny.

I imagine, if any fanny could talk, it would have said the same thing.

Weereens was ek so dankbaar dat ek agter 'n warm rug kon sit, maar die heel beste was om die saalsakke oop te maak en 'n “plattetjie” uit te haal!!! Daardie sjerrie was soos “engeltjie piepie” op die tong en het beslis die ergste byt uit die koue gehaal. Die dorpie, Ogies sal NOOIT weer dieselfde wees nie!

Die roete was pragtig en die landskap met sy grou winterkleure was ook iets om te sien. Al was ons so lank in die saal, sien 'n mens darem alles net anders op 'n Harley.

Die middagete op Wakkerstroom was heerlik en weereens, as 'n “Harley-Rookie”, moet ek beklemtoon, dat ek in hierdie jaar meer van my land gesien het op die Softail, as die vorige halfeeu van my bestaan.

After lunch everybody got on their bikes and we were marshalled safely back. Dusk was falling over the city as we entered the outskirts of Pretoria. We did over 700km in one day. If it wasn't for the friends, (and the SHERRY) I do not think my backside would have survived the saddle, but it was worth all the cold and the needles and pins!

Unfortunately we could not ride any other Monsters for the year, but 2013 is a new year and I am sure we will stay on our Harley's for many years to come...

I WILL NEED A NEW WAISTCOAT TO ADD ALL THE PINS!!!

