

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I wonder how many new bikes Santa delivered to some good girls and boys?



By all accounts the Toy Run breakfast went off well, but the numbers were very much down on last year's - rain threatened, but a contingency plan to use the club room at the oval was on standby.

The Cobdogla Weekend: All the cabins are booked (even I missed out), but there are plenty of powered and unpowered sites available. Baramera Caravan Park has cabins and there is other hard accommodation there. It's not much by taxi. Toddy (Mallee) has it in his diary and so we are looking forward to some of the Mallee joining us for dinner at the Cobby Club. Don't forget to phone me to book you in for dinner.

Due to circumstances, I was unable to attend the dinner held in Adelaide recently, to raise funds for what has been dubbed 'Di's orphans' in Rwanda. There is a bit of info further in the magazine. I've always thought that Di Longson was an amazing woman and human being, but I didn't know how just how amazing she is! She has been a member of Ulysses and WIMA for many years and is very well known by those who have been around for a while. Anyway, to get to my point: Anyone who knows ANYTHING about Rwanda will know what a struggle it is for many of the population there, let alone orphans, and I would like to assist Di's fundraising by raffling an, as yet, unfinished quilt. As soon as it is done and dusted and I have photos, I will get ticket info 'out there'.

Penrith isn't too far off! I'm looking forward to catching up with a couple of cousins and a couple of mates from my teenage years. There is info on the Mouth to the Mountains ride and a rego form further on in the magazine. Our time frame has put Garry and I on a different route, but the M to the M sounds like a real goer!

May you all come home safely from the AGM,

Wendy

The Odyssey is published bi-monthly as the magazine of the Ulysses Club Incorporated Adelaide Branch and is available by subscription - **\$12.00 for 1 calendar year, paid to The Odyssey Magazine Wendy King 26 Second Street ARDROSSAN 5571 or at the monthly meeting.** Contributions from members are welcome. The Editor reserves the right of final choice of material to be included in each issue and its format. All material should be sent to **The Editor, 26 Second Street, Ardrossan 5571 or by e-mail: king@netyp.com.au.**

Original photographs, images on CDs or e-mailed photos only should be submitted. **Please do not send photocopies of photographs.**

Closing dates for submission are:

19th July	for the August issue
19th September	for the October issue
19th November	for the December issue
19th January	for the February issue
19th March	for the April issue
19th May	for the June issue

Although all efforts are made to ensure accuracy, The Odyssey cannot verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in editorial material are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of the Ulysses Club Incorporated. All material and advertisements are submitted subject to the discretion of the members. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any advertising or delete any material which could be considered or interpreted as questionable, libellous or offensive, without consultation.

The Good (Ulysses) Samaritan

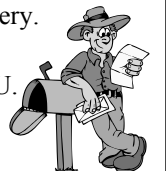
Dear Editor

When returning home to Moonta from the Kadina Christmas Toy Run, my old motorcycle stripped a timing gear, bringing me to an abrupt halt 12ks from home. An oncoming car stopped, driver asked if he could help, lent me a phone to call for assistance. When he heard that I had to leave the outfit on the roadside 'til I returned with the trailer, he said, 'You can't do that; it will be stripped!' So his friend drove me home while he waited with the bike in the flies and heat. I returned with the trailer and they helped me load the outfit. This person didn't tell me his name, but he said he was a Ulyssian with the Adelaide Branch, and he was recovering from knee surgery.

So, to you, Sir, a very, very BIG THANK YOU.

Sincerely

Ian Fullwood



Adelaide Branch Meetings

First Thursday of the Month
West Adelaide Football Club
57 Milner Road, Richmond

8.00 pm
Meals available from 6.00 pm

Visit us on our Web Page

www.ulyssesadelaide.com.au

and check out the latest news on branch happenings

Barossa Group



Barossa rides leave The Old
Steam Train
(opposite the BP Station at
Nuriootpa)
at 10 o'clock
on the 1st Sunday of the month



Rides Captain

Andrew Mill

Phone: 08 7220 2266

Mobile: 0412 312 243

Wednesday Rides Captain

Mick Sandley

Phone: 8251 2435

Mobile: 0407 817 362



Wednesday Rides

All runs will leave at 10.30 am

1st Wednesday	Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside
2nd Wednesday	Feathers Hotel Car Park, Burnside
3rd Wednesday	North: Caltex, Munno Para
or	South: Victoria Hotel, Top o'Taps
4th Wednesday	North: Tea Tree Gully Hotel
or	South: Victoria Hotel, Top o'Taps
5th Wednesday	Feathers Hotel
(3rd & 4th Wed: There are two rides - 1 north and 1 south Bring or buy your own lunch	

Contact Mick Sandley - 8251 2435
or 0407 817 362

SA & Broken Hill Branches' Boss Cockies

Broken Hill Branch

President	Don Bearman	0418 858 653
Secretary	Jenny Kappe	8882 2588
Treasurer	Mick Travena	0419 827 194

Eyre Peninsula Branch

President	William (Bill) Richter	86828212 0412 597 290
Sec/Treas	Patricia (Trish) Pruis	86822358

Fleurieu Branch

President	Robert Ryan	0404 478 741
Secretary	Suzanne Terry	0413 184 893
Rides Captain	Mick Corfield	8186 6697

0434 256 848

Limestone Coast Branch

President	Tim Snigg	8724 9408
Rides Captain	Chris Jackway	8725 3318

Mallee Branch

President	Rob Todd	85837131 0428 251 968
Secretary	Carol Beswick	85872232
Treasurer	Raelene Jackson	8582 2207
Rides Coordinator	Steve Gilgen	0428 894 760

Torrens Valley Branch

President	Mark Seja	0402 982 402
	Jester56@optusnet.com.au	
Secretary	Rod Stoneman	stoneman@chariot.net.au 8396 0937
	mark.seja@optusnet.com.au	0402 982 402
Treasurer	Frank de Ruiter	0406 015 779
	fdjr@optusnet.com.au	
Rides Captain	Dave Holland	0411 378 181

Whyalla Branch

President	George Savaidis	8645 0808
Secretary	Sandy Sawley	8644 0951
Treasurer	John Edwards	8549 3549

ILLUSIONS BY LYTE

NEW
WEB SITE



Rob Hartridge
Ulysses member.
0422 114 225

<http://leadlight.biz>

Think Leadlight is boring ?

Check out my website.

I love "DIFFERENT"

*Framed panels for renters
or group gifts*



Adelaide Branch Ride Calendar February-April

Date	Time	Leader	Event	From
8-Feb	5.00 pm	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Day Ride	Civic Park, Main North East Road Modbury
15-Feb	9.30am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Day Ride	Top o'Taps
22-Feb	9.30am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Day Ride	McDonald's Magill Road
1-Mar	9.00am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	maximoto Sponsored Ride	maximoto 100A South Road (near Anzac Hwy)
8-Mar			ADELAIDE CUP LONG W/E	
15-Mar	9.00am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	AGM Day Ride	McDonald's Magill Rosd
22-Mar	9.30am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	AGM Day Ride	Civic Park, Main North East Road Modbury
29-Mar	9.0am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Day Ride	Top of Taps
5-Apr	9.00am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Bills Sponsored Ride	Bill's 368 Mn Nth Rd Blair Athol
12-Apr	9.30 am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	Wabbit Wun Easter Sunday	Civic Park, Main North East Road Modbury
19-Apr	9.00 am	Andrew Mill 0412312243	GC Motorcycles Sponsored Day Ride	GC Motorcycles
25-26 Apr	10.00 am	Wendy King 8837 3449	ANZAC WEEKEND Cobdogla Caravan Park	Munno Para Shopping Centre



Cobdogla Anzac Weekend 25-26 April 2009

- Staying at the Cobdogla Station Caravan Park Phone 8588 7164
or Lake Bonney Holiday Park Phone 8588 2234
(book your own accommodation)
 - Dining at the Cobdogla & District Club
(Voted the Best Regional Club in SA every year from 2003-2007)
 - Saturday night entertainment
 - Very reasonably priced meals
-
- See the working steam museum which has the last working Humphrey Pump in existence
 - Diesel train rides between 1 and 3pm

Depart Munno Para Shopping Centre Car Park 10.00 am
Phone Wendy King on 88373449 for more information and bookings for dinner on the
Saturday night.



Agriculturally rich ~
naturally beautiful



...enjoy the tranquility and beauty of an evening stroll
along a Peninsula beach as the sun sets beneath the horizon

ANOTHER MID-WEEK RIDE TO PORT VINCENT

Date: 22nd to 24th April (2 nights)
Staying at Tuckerway, Pt. Vincent

Cost : Accommodation \$38, plus food. \$10 deposit required

Meeting at Munno Para shopping centre, leaving at 10.30am

Contact Mick Sandley 8251 2435 mob: 0407 817 362
or Ross Murray 8260 1109



Seen at the January Dinner at the Modbury Plaza Hotel



Monthly Dinners



Friday

13th February 2009

7pm

**Feathers Hotel
516 Glynburn Road
Burnside**

for bookings and cancellations
phone Kevin Brenton

on 8332 4719

(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL

bookings close
Wednesday, 11th February, 2009



Friday

13th March 2009

7pm

**Sussex Hotel
68 Walkerville Tce
Walkerville**

for bookings and cancellations
phone Kevin Brenton

on 8332 4719

(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL

bookings close
Wednesday, 11th March, 2009



Kulpara Laser Lec

LASER ENGRAVING,
CUTTING AND ETCHING.

ABN: 53 849 230469

PERSONALISED

Giftware

for all

OCCASIONS

- Glasses
- Wine Bottles
- Hip Flasks
- Wooden Pens
- Timber Products
- Birthday
- Wedding
- Engagement
- Anniversary
- Christmas

Mark and Vicki Lomman
Ulysses Members # 27840 & 27839

PO Box 42 KULPARA SA 5555
Phone/Fax: (08) 8827 3228
Email: kulparalaserlec@bordnet.com.au

Note: Change of date due to Good

Friday

Friday

17th April 2009

7pm



**Highbury Hotel
1017 Lower North East Rd
Highbury**

for bookings and cancellations
phone Kevin Brenton

on 8332 4719

(leave message on message bank)

DO NOT PHONE HOTEL

bookings close
Wednesday, 15th April, 2009

Adelaide Wednesday Riders Christmas Lunch

It was that time of the year again. At 10-30am on Wednesday 17th of December 08 despite a couple of rain showers and the threat of more rain, some 15 or so Ulysses members assembled in the rear car park of the Victoria Hotel, Top Of Taps. Around the same time, a similar tradition was occurring across the other side of town, where about the same number of Ulyssians were gathering at the Caltex Servo, Munno Para.



The annual Christmas lunch has become a bit of a tradition and it was great to see a large number of members arrive at the starting points in cars with their partners. Fortunately this year no one had any sad tale to tell of being booked for speeding on the way to the ride.

The Top of Taps group headed off again ably led by Kevin Brenton on a ride which took the group through the Adelaide Hills including Ironbank, Mount Lofty, Summertown and a short stop at Mylor. Kevin Brenton must sit up all night with a map trying to find twisty roads through the hills that he hasn't been on before and he didn't disappoint any one this year.

At this point everyone had Christmas lunch on their mind and it was a quick ride through to Echunga, Macclesfield and into Meadows for lunch.

With superb timing, the northern mob began arriving from their ride and joined a number of members who had driven by car to Meadows and were enjoying a couple of drinks. One member had such a good time she couldn't resist greeting and kissing nearly everyone who arrived for lunch. After a couple of cold ones, over 60 members settled in for a wonderful Christmas lunch and a chat.

When it was time to leave, the rain began to fall again and I could hear the members who had driven their cars to the lunch chuckling to themselves as they drove off with their windscreen wipers and air conditioners operating. Who was the person who was preparing to leave after having a great time and was spotted trying to put on a helmet backwards?



Once again another great day was had by all who attended and thanks goes to Bryan Cutt who has been organizing this event every Christmas.

Peltman #22403

Itinerary for Mouth to Mountains Ride 11-15 March 2009

Day 1 – Goolwa to **Waikerie** (337 kms)
Overnight at Waikerie: (Wednesday 11th March 2009)

Day 2 – Waikerie to **Mildura** (221 kms)
Overnight at Mildura: (Thursday 12th March, 2009)

Days 3 & 4 – Mildura to **Echuca/Moama** (371 kms)
Overnight at Echuca/Moama: (Friday 13th March & Saturday 14th March, 2009)

NOTE: Echuca is a 2 night stay – bookings will only be taken for a Friday or Saturday night on that basis due to the fact that Echuca is designated a “tourist town”.

Day 5 – Echuca to **Jindabyne** (495 kms)
Overnight at Jindabyne: (Sunday 15th March, 2009)

Jindabyne Sports and Recreation Complex Ph 02 6450 0200

NOTE: All riders are encouraged to book at this facility. It can cater for up to 500 people in a variety of accommodation styles ranging from bunkhouse to cabin. Costs are very reasonable and it would provide the opportunity for all to get together on the last “official” night of the ride.

There is a licenced restaurant on the premises and the staff are happy to provide (at cost) BBQ packs etc for those that would prefer. Breakfast (at cost) is also available for riders prior to departure on Monday 16th March, 2009.

Literature for this facility (including cost structure and accommodation layout) is available from the ride organisers at request. Please factor in CPI cost rise for next year's rates.

For further details or request for literature please contact

Mark Seja
President, Torrens Valley Branch

Ph 0402 982 402

Jester56@optusnet.com.au

MOUTH TO THE MOUNTAINS RIDE
Wednesday 11th March – Sunday 15th March

Itinerary on opposite page

- Bookings for hard accommodation are filling up, but there are still plenty of camping sites available.
- A raffle has been organised the prizes will be: First prize – A framed jacket belonging to and signed by Valentino Rossi. Other prizes will be a cap signed by Valentino Rossi and several vouchers donated by Bills Motorcycles.
- Books of tickets will be available shortly, tickets will cost \$2.00 each
- It was decided that a registration fee of \$10.00 will be charged and a sew on badge will be issued with each registration.
- All proceeds from raffles, registrations, will be going to the Ulysses Club Arthritis Research Fund (U.C.A.R.F)

ULYSSES CLUB
MOUTH TO THE MOUNTAINS RIDE
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME

Family Name..... MEMBER NUMBER

Given Name.....

Family Name..... MEMBER NUMBER

Given Name.....

BRANCH

ADDRESS

Number & Street.....

Suburb.....

State..... P/C Contact No.....

Email.....

RIDE DETAILS

How much of the ride will you be doing? (circle one) All Part

If you circled “part”, where will you be joining the ride?

We are asking participants to assist in our fund-raising activities for U.C.A.R.F. by enclosing a donation of \$10.00 per rider/pillion i.e. if you are 2up then \$20.00.

Of that \$10.00 donation, \$5.00 will be for the purchase of a commemorative patch and the other \$5.00 will be donated to U.C.A.R.F. on your behalf. Acknowledgement of your payment will be made by email to the address provided.

Cheques can be made payable to: **Torrens Valley Ulysses Branch**

Complete this form and return it along with your \$10.00 per participant registration fee to:

Ulysses Club Mouth to the Mountains Ride
c/- Mark Seja
9 Strathfield Terrace,
TAPEROO S.A. 5017

Vale Vito Martinello

We were all shocked and saddened by the death of one of our Wednesday riders, Vito Martinello, on 24th September.

Vito had been riding out with us for only a couple of years, but he soon became a popular member of the group, coming out regularly on Wednesdays and joining our mid-week trips away.

We won't forget that last trip to Barmera; Vito was only too pleased to share his



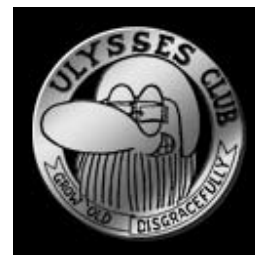
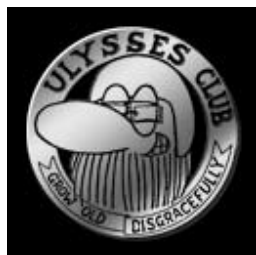
home-brewed rocket fuel and his expertise at making paper planes.

A large group of Ulyssians attended his funeral, a simple affair by the creek under the gum trees, on his property.

So Vito has sadly joined the list of our mates who have ridden on.

Our sympathies are with his family.

Doreen Sandley



RIDER PROFILE FROM THE WEDNESDAY MOB TEN QUESTIONS WITH ULYSSES MEMBER – Colin Leaker

Q1. How long have you been a Ulysses member?

A1. Approximately seven years.

Q2. What influenced you to join?

A2. The opportunity to ride regularly with a group of people with common interests.

Q3. What motor bike are you currently riding?

A3. Honda NT650V- Deauville.

Q4. How many bikes have you owned over the years?

A4. Seven

Q5. Name some of the bikes you have owned?

A5. 1949 BSA 250 C11, 1951 Vincent Comet 500cc, 1971 Honda CB250, Suzuki GS650- shaft drive, 1994 Yamaha XJ900S.

Q6. What will be your next bike?

A6. Probably upgraded Deauville- at 75 years of age and with the GFC- a long shot!!

Q7. What is your favorite bike?

A7. The one I have now.

Q8. If money was no object and you could have any bike in the world, what would it be?

A8. Honda ST1300/ Yamaha FJR1300AS/ BMW K1200GT- Can't decide, so I might need to buy all three.



Q9. What do you enjoy about the Ulysses Club?

A9. The regular Wednesday rides, they divide up the week very well and it is chance to explore new Adelaide Hills roads that you may not search out yourself; contact with others with an interest in motorcycles; just plain doing what you like doing on some of Australia's best roads.

Q10. Do you have any nick name? Come on I know you do!!

A10. Digging very deep as I hate nick names, but it was "Squeaker". Now you will all have to be killed.

UPCOMING S.A. RALLIES 2009

MARCH 7, 8	RIVERGUM	RENMARK	GROT 0412 602 272
APRIL 3,4,5,	R.A.C.	COONALPYN HOTEL	ANDY 0411 212 076
APRIL 18, 19	BOOBOROWIE		AIDAN 8346 4071
MAY 2, 3	ROAMING SWAGMAN	BURRA CREEK GORGE	LEFTY 0412 767 945 MARK 8634 4377
MAY 9, 10	GREAT ESCAPE - back to basics		HARALD 0421 289 714
MAY 30, 31	WANBI PUB	WANBI	GROT 0412 602 272
JUNE 6,7,8,	WINTERSUN	MILDURA	JOHN 03 5023 7218
JUNE 27, 28	RADIATA	SOUTH END	FRANK 8765 1030
AUG 7,8,9	ALZ 10th (and FINAL) RALLY	SEDAN	MEATAXE 8540 2172 ADRIAN 8568 2503
AUG 21,22,23	WOMBAT	WARNERTOWN	MICK 0417 846 668
SEPT 5, 6	BUCKIN'	MARRABEL	GROT 0412 602 272
SEPT 11,12,13	GHOST TOWN	LAKE MENINDEE	0418 858 653
SEPT 18,19,20	BUSH PIG	CRYSTAL BROOK	GREG 0409 8424 34
OCT long weekend	OASIS	PARUNA	LERCH 0432 284 529
OCT 17, 18	REDBACK	LAKE BONNEY	IVAN 0403 210 925

**LIST SUPPLIED COURTESY OF MEATAXE 8540 2172
NO RESPONSIBILITY TAKEN FOR DATE CHANGES - CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL ORGANISERS**



Rob gets another hot date with CARA at the Royal Showgrounds

Picture perfect weather and not 330 like last year but 600 this year saw another Ulyssian gladly give his time in support of yet another Ulysses public request, to again play Santa's little helper and reindeer him into the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds on Sunday 30 November 2008.



Jean and I again helped out on this annual event first asked by Liz Fairchild last year for a volunteer, so as you can see Harleys can come in useful sometimes.

The day went very well indeed and at the appointed time in came Santa on his 'reindeer' and was immediately swamped by the queue jumpers,

bless their little innocent hearts. Although not planning to stay more than a few minutes to wish everyone a merry Christmas he made the fatal error of resting his weary bones, some 150 or so kids later and countless photographs and presents being handed out, it was time for him to be whisked away.

CARA stands for Community and Respite Agency, and it's the one day more so than other when both Children and the parents/ carers let their hair down and enjoy the



day whilst professional carers look after all the children's personal needs etc.

It's a lovely way to spend the day just helping out, so thank you Liz Fairchild for getting involved with CARA and thus allowing Jean and I to also become involved, we are also booked for the foreseeable future now.

Rob & Jean Beaumont



Far left: Rob and Santa

Left: Some don't ever want to grow up!

Bottom left: Face painting and a little zoo were features

Below: Jumping the queue!



In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day an acquaintance ran up to him excitedly and said, 'Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?'

'Wait a moment,' Socrates replied. 'Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test.'

'Triple filter?' asked the acquaintance.

'That's right,' Socrates continued. 'Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is *Truth*. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?'

'No,' the man said, 'actually I just heard about it.'

'All right,' said Socrates. 'So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of *Goodness*. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?'

'No, on the contrary...'

'So,' Socrates continued, 'you want to tell me something bad about him, even though you're not certain it's true?'

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continued, 'You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter - the filter of *Usefulness*. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?'

'No, not really...'

'Well,' concluded Socrates, 'if what you want to tell me is neither *True* nor *Good* nor even *Useful*, why tell it to me at all?'

The man was defeated and ashamed. This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem. It also explains why he never found out that Plato was screwing his wife

Rob Watts Memorial 2009

Twenty-one Ulyssians members travelled from Whyalla, Torrens Valley, Barossa and Yorke Peninsula to meet at the Ardrossan graveside of Rob Watts for a memorial tribute to him. Steve Woolly said a few words in memory of Rob which were endorsed by every one present; we all then celebrated Rob's life and achievements in the way that Rob would have enjoyed it.

Steve and Rob were instrumental in organising several rides to Ayres Rock as a fundraiser. Rob put his heart and soul into raising money for this event by approaching local businesses, and was by far the biggest fund raiser.



Ulysses to pay their respects to Rob

The group booked every room in the local motel with the exception of two. The afternoon was spent in the motel's gazebo (above) with every one reminiscing about their exploits with Rob. Many of the stories were suitably embellished to make them even more incredible.

In the evening, we took up two large tables in the hotel and continued our celebrations, enjoyed an excellent meal and did our best to live up to our motto.

Thanks must go to Dianne Lehman from Whyalla Branch who organised the whole show, no mean feat due to the geographical locations of those who attended. She told me that this was her first attempt at doing something like this, but she was very pleased with the result and feedback that she got, so it looks like being an annual event. Well done Di.

Rodney Lind



Under the pergola

Di Longson

Di is a fellow Ulyssian who headed out to Africa to work about 3 years ago. She is the Team Leader/Clinical Educator in the Medical Unit of the King Faisal Hospital ('best equipped and most modern hospital in Africa', so reads the spiel). Kigali, the capital of Rwanda is where she is based.

Whilst there, she has come across a group of boys (orphans), 150 at the last count, who live in a disused and very old factory. They sleep on the ground, and for meals, when they can get any, eat maize rice and water mixed with beans. Di shops, whenever she gets the chance, for greens at the local markets. With Di's help, they now have rabbits, doing what good bunnies do, and now numbering 100 or so, ducks and chickens. The duck eggs are mainly for the boys with HIV as they contain the high protein they require to prolong their lives.

Recently, someone donated uniforms for the boys so they feel a part of the whole. If you wish to visit Di, you will get a visit with the boys and have a game of footy, Aussie style. Some of the boys attend primary school, with a few in secondary and technical school.

About 50 people joined Di on Monday, 19th January, at the Rollin Restaurant, whilst she was home in Adelaide. I'm pleased to say, due to the great generosity of those present, an amount of \$1000 was raised to put with some \$8,000 she has already raised for her boys.

Di's Dream: To build a boarding school for her beloved boys. Any help we, as Ulyssians, can give her would be greatly appreciated, I know. Dreams can come true with out help.

You can email Dianne on dianne.longson@gmail.com
Her address is:

Di Longson
Team Leader/Clinical Educator
Medical Unit
King Faisal Hospital
Kigali
Rwanda

Jamie-T Gryphon



Jamie- T Gryphon, Di, Jenny Hills at the dinner



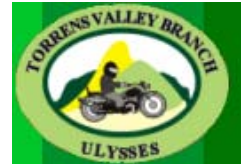
Torrens Valley Branch Meetings

7.30pm

Third Tuesday of the Month

Parafield Gardens Community Club
Shepherdson Road, Parafield Gardens

Meals available from the Club before the Meeting
All welcome



Date	Time	Contact	Event	Venue	Leaving
Sunday 8th Feb	9.30 am	David Holland 0411 378 181	Day Ride	Cambrai	Munno Para
Sunday 15th Feb			Port2Port Motorcycle Rally for Men's Health		Port Adelaide
Sunday 22nd Feb	9.30 am	John Robinson	BBQ at Bev & Skippy's	Port Pirie	Gawler
Saturday 28th Feb			Bi-Monthly Dinner	See Newsletter for more info	
Sunday 8th March	9.30 am	TBA			McDonald's Car Park
Wednesday 11th - Sunday 15th March		Mark Seja	Mouth to the Mountains		
Monday 16th-Sunday 22nd March			2009 AGM Penrith		
Sunday 22nd March	9.30 am	David Holland 0411 378 181	Day Ride	Hills Ride	Munno Para
Sunday 5th April	9.30 am	TBA			Gawler
Friday 11-14 April			Easter Weekend		



Yorke Peninsula

Combined Ride Yorke Peninsula & Eyre Peninsula December 2008

I have heard it said that you cannot do the same thing twice and be successful, so I was a little sceptical when Herman and Trish Pruis approached me to do a Y.P ride the same as last year.

Well, with quite a bit of assistance from Y.P.R.G and E.P Branch members, and a lot of emails, we managed to create an event that surpassed last year's ride. It was good to see members from Adelaide, Fleurieu and Torrens Valley Branches join us.

The ferry to Wallaroo arrived just before 1.00 pm, the bikes were hastily unloaded and it was a mad scramble to book in.

After lunch at the local bakery we set off for a short ride to Moonta, where we dropped off the girls for a bit of retail therapy, while the guys did a tour of Moonta Bay and Port Hughes and back to Moonta to collect the ladies, and return to Wallaroo.

After a bit of socialising and a clean up, we headed off to The Boatshed Restaurant for the evening meal. There were about 65 of us which filled the old Boat Shed completely.

On Saturday morning, we were joined by more riders from Kimba and Y.P which swelled our number to 30 bikes many with pillion and sidecar passengers. Our first stop was Ardrossan for morning tea; everyone was warned not to eat too much as we heard that a big lunch awaited us. This was the understatement of the year!

Arriving at John and Rita Molnar's place at Stansbury for lunch, we were greeted with the biggest array of continental culinary delights that I have ever seen. After everyone pigged out on pastries, savoury dishes, freshly caught whiting, cakes and desserts, John brought out a heap of big blue swimmer crabs! This just about finished us all off.



Rita and John Molnar

The E.P President, Bill Richter, gave a vote of thanks to John and Rita then we headed off back to Wallaroo.

Saturday night's tea at the Weeroona Hotel went off really well - there were so many of us that we had to have our own dining room and bar.

Next morning, after breakfast, the majority of E.P members opted to ride home in groups at various times, so 'the locals' spent the morning saying their goodbyes and expressing the wish to do it again next year.

The dates have been set for the 11th, 12th, 13th & 14th December 2009 the venue will be Edithburgh. If you are looking for a great weekend jot it down in your diary, details will be available later on in the year.

Thanks to everyone who helped, the breakfast and lunch organisers, the tail end Charlie, and corner marshals, without their help it would not have happened.

Rodney Lind
8837 7260

January 2009 Evening Ride

Everyone met up at 5.30 pm at Ardrossan with a couple of new members joining us for their first ride. After a democratic discussion the majority voted to make the Curramulka Hotel the venue for the night, a quick phone call soon put paid to this idea as they were completely booked out due to the holiday season. Back to the drawing board and the second choice



The leg on which SA stands

was the Rising Sun Hotel at Port Wakefield. The ride down there was most enjoyable light sea breeze with no bugs. The pub has a dining room and a very large under cover beer garden which we opted for, the proprietors made us most welcome to the extent of providing a room for us to stash our helmets and riding gear. They have a wide range of food from barbeque to set menu, including a good selection of reasonably priced nightly specials. After the meal, we were invited around to Di & Rob Chadbourne's for coffee, which we enjoyed in their recently completed outdoor patio area. Thanks to Di & Rob from everyone for their hospitality. After several coffees and eats we all suited up and headed in various directions for home.



Above: At dinner in the Boatshed at Wallaroo

Below: At the Rising Sun Hotel, Port Wakefield



Coming Rides

Saturday 28th Feb. & Sunday 1st March 2009

Yorke Peninsula Vintage, Veteran & Classic M.C.C. Annual Rally at Port Vincent (Tuckerway Hostel). If you wish to participate in all or part of the rally, registrations are essential. Contact Les Schwab on 8852 1834.

Saturday 7th – Monday 9th March 2009

Hosting the Fleurieu Peninsula Branch at Balaklava Caravan Park. Tea Saturday night at the local hotel (numbers required by 27th Feb 2009.) Ride and barbeque organised for Sunday.

Sunday 5th April 2009

Friends and Rellies run. Meet at B.P Port Wakefield 10.00am. This is an opportunity to invite non members to join us and see what we are all about. Shortish easy ride, finishing at Port Broughton for lunch.

Sunday 3rd May 2009

Meet at B.P Port Wakefield at 10.00 am
Ride to Barossa Valley for lunch

Friday 11th – Monday 14th Dec 2009

As mentioned earlier the annual Y.P & E.P combined ride is on again this year. It is imperative that accommodation be booked by the end of February, sooner if possible. This applies to both hard accommodation and camping sites. We have compiled a list of basic ride details and venues, if you wish to be part of what promises to be a fantastic weekend contact me and I can pass details on to you for booking purposes.

For more info on any ride or dinner bookings, contact

Rodney Lind
88377260

Top right: Yeah, right, Clive! Wednesday rides co-ordinator, Clive Ford, holds forth with the some of the 'faithful' at Edithburgh. Clive has just turned 70 and we wish him all the best. I don't know how long he has been leading the rides, but it seems like forever! The riders appreciate his dedication. Bottom right: Leon Hall points out the finer points of his outfit. Pictured below are Roger (Cookie) Cook and his wife, Lorraine (Cookiette) 'new' members on their first Ulysses ride to Port Wakefield in January



North & South: Lyn Sawtell (regular Wednesday rider) and Jim Davies (man from the South) at Corny Point

Sunday Rides

are held on the first Sunday of the month. Watch this page for details and updates or contact Rod Lind on 8837 7260/0148 527 977 for info.

Wednesday Rides

leave the parking bay in the centre of Kadina Park at 9.30 am on Wednesdays. Please contact Clive Ford on 8821 1598 before any Wednesday ride to get the latest information.



Eyre Peninsula's slant on the weekend at Wallaroo in December

The Eyre Peninsula Ulysses Branch was led by Herman Pruis for the Wallaroo weekend Dec 5-7th. 17 bikes left North Shields at 8am to catch the ferry at Lucky Bay for a 10.30am departure.

A few more bikes met the group at the Tumbly Bay silos and the trip was set to be an exciting one, with all looking forward to visiting the beautiful Yorke Peninsula.

The ferry crossing was pleasant with lots of chatter, food and even time for a nap before docking at Wallaroo at 12.30pm and settled into our accommodation.

Rod and Rae Lind from Port Clinton had organised an afternoon run to Moonta for some retail therapy for the ladies and the rest to look around Moonta Bay and Port Hughes.

Great scenery and ride, then back to Wallaroo to pick up the ladies and head back for tea at the Boatshed Restaurant. The meal was fantastic, lots of variety, plenty of fluids to quench the thirst and great to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Saturday was set to be another jam packed day with more bikers from Adelaide, Yorke Peninsula and Kimba joining in for the ride (total of 30 bikes and 58 people) to enjoy the days activities.

The first stop was Ardrossan for morning tea and a fuel stop. Herman and Trish Pruis took this opportunity to take some photos of the other riders and gave Herman an excuse to give his bike a bit of stick, so to speak. Stansbury was the next stop for a beaut homemade luncheon hosted by local members John and Rita Molnar. They spoil the visitors with a great assortment of food, including crabs, fish parcels and great pastries to tempt the tastebuds.

It was enjoyed by all and with bellies full, riders said their farewells and thanked them for their hospitality and set off to Minalton and Corny Point, a must see for the travellers. Great

roads and scenery, then back to Wallaroo for one guess, that's right, more food and fluids at the Weerona Hotel.

The night was a success with everyone reminiscing at the Sunday breakfast of the couple of days activities. Said our farewells and all departed at their own pace back home.

A big thankyou to Rod and Rae for organising with Herman another successful trip and we will mark this as a annual event for others to come and enjoy.

Have a great New Year and keep the shiny side up. See you all on the road sometime.

**Regards
Trish and Herman**



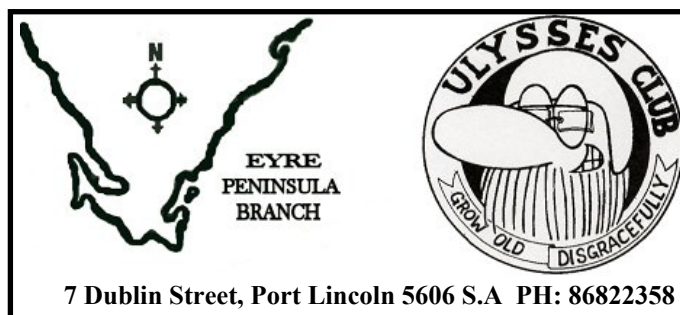
Above: filling up at Ardrossan

Below: Preparing to ride down Yorke Peninsula to the Molnars' for Saturday lunch



Eyre Peninsula Branch Ride Calendar

Come on any event on any sort of wheels
Scheduled Rides Leave On Time As Indicated
All Rides May Be Subject To Alteration
Visitors Welcome



Date	Ride	Contact	Advise by	Leave	Time
February Sat-Sun 14-15	Streaky Bay Overnight Book own accommodation	Nick Octoman 8688 4217	January 31	Town Jetty	10.00 am
February Saturday 28	Progressive Ride - Dinner BBQ Rosie 7 Bill's (to be advised)	Bill Crettenden 8683 3382	February 14	Town Jetty	10.00 am
March 22 Sunday	Bienke's Farm near Elbow hill BBQ supplied	Alan Pfitzner 8682 3386	March 8	North Shields	10.00 am
April 4-5 Sat-Sun	Elliston Overnight Book own accommodation	Mick Jesser 8682 4019	March 14	Town Jetty	10.00 am
April 18-19 Sat-Sun	Nyroca Scout Camp Overnight	Jack Ash 8684 3285	April 5	Town Jetty	1.00 pm Saturday
April 26 Sunday	Cleve for lunch	Herman Pruis 8682 2358	April 20	North Shields	10.00 am
May 2-4 Sat-Sun	Brossa Valley Accommodation to be notified	Kevin Warren 8684 2093	April 20	North Shields	8.00 am Ferry 10.30 am
May 24 Sunday	Borthwick Hill BYO BBQ	Jack Ash 8684 2358		North Shields	10.00 am
June 6-8 Sat-Sun	Nutbush Retreat (near Iron Knob) Cowell (book own accommodation)	Allan Smith 8682 1475	May 23	Town Jetty	8.00 am Saturday
June 27 Saturday	Christmas in June - Marina Hotel	Bill Richter 8282 8212	June 9	Marina Hotel	6.00 pm for 630

Four married guys go fishing. After an hour, the following conversation took place:

First guy: 'You have no idea what I had to do to be able to come out fishing this weekend. I had to promise my wife that I would paint every room in the house next weekend.'

Second guy: 'That is nothing, I had to promise my wife that I would build her a new deck for the pool.'

Third guy: 'Man, you both have it easy! I had to promise my wife that I would remodel the kitchen for her.'

They continue to fish. When they realized that the fourth guy has not said a word, they asked him. 'You haven't said anything about what you had to do to be able to come fishing this weekend. What's the deal?'

Fourth guy: 'I just set my alarm for 5:30 am. When it went off, I shut off my alarm, gave the wife a slap on her butt and said:

'Fishing or Sex?' and she said: 'Wear sun-block.'

Southern Flinders

I can remember it like it was yesterday, Les Beyer sitting in a restaurant, saying casually but not quite sure if he was serious, as you can never tell with the big feller, that he would love to start a ride group for the Port Pirie district for Ulysses. I totally agreed that's what we needed, because I don't ever disagree with him as he is far wiser than I am. So I offered to put on a breakfast to launch the group at our shop.

From the very offset, we all knew we were in good hands, with ride Calenders and designated ride leaders printed and placed in the shop window, for those of us with no email, and an email to those who had one, the whole group clicked immediately everyone being very easy to get along with; all along, Les keeping his father like eye over us all, introducing us to other branches and riding groups, and tail end Charlie system, and the corner man method; all of us felt comfortable with that format and with the leadership. The ride attendance started to rise from 6 to 26 on the last ride with lots of couples choosing to join the group, I guess because of the relaxed nature and the animal magnetism of Les.

Les has been a rock steering us in the right direction, keeping us informed, building a social network. We would all like to thank him for his efforts and wish the Sollies all the best for taking over his role - big shoes to fill. Stax seems to think one part of Treena is big enough for the job. Cheers Les thank you for all you have done.

Sunday 16th November: We rode to Wilmington. Les, our ride leader, had bike trouble (very unusual for a Yamaha) so Rob became our new ride leader/timekeeper, (Les travelled by car). We rode to Jamestown and up to Ororoo where we had a stop, then on to Wilmington for lunch. Some had lunch at the hotel and others at the deli, which was enjoyable. We then rode down to Laura and had ice-cream just in time before Rob shouted "5 mins to go" then headed home after a really good day.

Solly & I would like to congratulate "Stax" for completing a full ride on his trike after several DNFs.

Sunday 21st December: After meeting at Caltex, we headed to Wirrabara Markets through Pt.Germein Gorge. We had a walk around the Markets and a few tid bits were brought. Father Christmas made an appearance on a tractor and a few big kids sat on his lap. We then rode on to Hickory's Run Olive Grove, which is between Wirrabara and Stone Hut, for coffee. It's an excellent spot with good food, coffee and friendly service. After coffee and talking we travelled back to Wirrabara Hotel for lunch - great menu to choose from. After more good food, some rode to Port Augusta through Horrocks Pass and others rode back to Port Pirie.

Sunday 28th December: Had coffee at our usual Sunday meeting spot, the French Hot Bread Shop, where a couple from Albany WA (Peter & Adele) joined us and had coffee as well. They were riding from Albany as far as they could go before turning back towards the west to be home by 31st January. A few of us (including our visitors) decided to ride over to Hickory's Run Olive Grove Café for some more fabulous food and coffee/tea. Great pizzas & door stops that would stop a bank vault door. We rode through Port Germein Gorge, through Wirrabara and on to Hickory's Run. Cossy won the "Tail End Charlie" Award for being served last once again (feel sorry for Julie); we sat around & talked for a while, (we were really waiting for Cossy

and Jules to finish their Pizza) before riding back to Pirie and stopping at Café Riva for milk shakes and coffees before heading home. What a great day!



Future Rides:

Saturday 28th March Ride Leader Glen (Solly) Solomon 8633 0385 / 0428 362 670 **Overnight ride to Edithburgh.**

Leave Caltex @ 9.00am. Ride to Kadina for coffee and a walk around the shops then stopping @ Ardrossan for lunch, then onto Edithburgh where we can sit around and have a few drinks before tea. Accommodation Edithburgh Caravan Park (8852 6056) or the Edithburgh Seaside Motel (1800 096 439) Tea can be at a Hotel or Café.

Sunday 19th April Ride Leader Glen (Solly) Solomon 8633 0385 / 0428 362 670 **Ride to Hawker for lunch.**

Leave Caltex @ 9.00am. Travel to Jamestown, Ororoo coffeeing @ Maggie's Rendezvous, then Carrieton, Craddock and on to Hawker. Coming back to Quorn, Wilmington, and Melrose (afternoon tea) then back to Pirie.

Sunday 17th May Ride Leader Phil Paparella. **Ride to Clare for a winery tour.**

Leave Caltex @ 9.00am. Ride to Clare to visit Cardingham Winery. Phil's mate owns the winery. We will be given a tour and shown the process of wine making etc. and for those who like a "wee drop" will be able to sample some wines. We will have lunch at the winery. Hot plates and seating supplied. BYO meats & treats.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Where: French Hot Bread Shop

(in the main street of Pt Pirie next to the ANZ bank and opposite the playground)

When: Every Sunday at 10:00am All welcome.

All rides will still leave Pt. Pirie from the Solomontown Caltex service station. Riders are welcome to come on all or part of the ride.

The ride calendar will be updated every month. Any updates during the month will be emailed out and copies put on the counter in Mid North Suzuki. The calendar will be on display in the window of Mid North Suzuki and printed in The Odyssey.

All rides will have a ride leader and a tail end Charlie (will always stay at the back of the group) so that everyone can ride at their own pace. We will also use corner marshals when the ride leader thinks it is required. The rider immediately behind the leader will stop and wait on a corner if the ride leader indicates (by pointing to the corner) and will remain on the corner directing other riders until tail end Charlie goes past. If you are willing to be a corner marshal then you just need to ride up the front but if you don't want the job then don't ride immediately behind the leader. The system works well if adhered to and lets everyone ride in confidence that they will not get lost even if they cannot see any other riders.

If you want to have this calendar and any updates emailed to you email me (Solly) at treena.solomon@yahoo.com.au and I will email the calendar to you in future.

Any questions or ideas for rides please contact me or Glen (Solly) on 8633 0385 or 0428 362 670

Treena Solomon

The silly season's over and it's back to work I guess. I hope everyone had a good one. The year has kicked off well with good roll-ups at the Pit Stop, although the next scheduled ride is our Mallee AGM to be held at Mannum on 15-2-09. All welcome.



Registrations for our Riverland Odyssey have exceeded 100 and our break-even figure is 125 so we are well on track. The first Bus and Boat trip is fully booked and we are arranging a second one which we expect will be fully subscribed.

Time to register for the event, particularly if you want hard accommodation or the Bus and Boat trip. We can only cope with 2 trips so there will be some who miss out. We'll publicise the closure of trip bookings on the Ulysses web site notice board. If there is enough demand we may be able to arrange a third trip on the P.S. Industry but that would have to be on the basis of members booking direct through the Renmark Tourist Office. Booking forms and information sheet is in this copy of The "Odyssey".

While on the subject, we will be approaching members to be volunteers at the event – we will need plenty of helping hands, from set-up to clean-up, and including registration table, traffic marshals, test ride helpers etc., etc. A small band of willing workers has put in a couple of years hard work to organize the Odyssey and now we need some help so please put up your hand to make this an event of which we all can be proud.

That's about it for now. Enjoy the Mouth to Mountains Ride, and the Penrith AGM.

**Enjoy life's great ride,
Toddy**

An Irish joke.....

An armed and hooded robber bursts into the Bank of Ireland and forces the tellers to load a sack full of cash.



On his way out the door with the loot, one brave Irish customer grabs the hood and pulls it off revealing the robber's face. The robber shoots the guy without hesitation!

He then looks around the bank to see if anyone else has seen him. One of the tellers is looking straight at him and the robber walks over and calmly shoots him also. Everyone by now is very scared and looking down at the floor. 'Did anyone else see my face?' calls the robber.

There are a few moments silence then one elderly Irish gent, Looking down, tentatively raises his hand and says: 'I think me wife may have caught a glimpse'

G'Day Folks

Firstly, we would like to wish everyone the very best for the New year. What a fabulous start we have had to the Year. Half the branch has had their birthdays within this period. This has made for greater than normal celebrations. How good is it to have so many friends to help celebrate?



Twilight rides have been a new and well received innovation this year. As it gets so hot in summer, riding at the end of the day has been great. We try to make a complete evening of it, with a meal and plenty of time for socialising. This has proved very popular with members with good attendances and fun time has been had by all.

Weekends away are always a great time to get to know people better and to help new members find friendship with in the branch. With this in mind, we went to Mount Gambier on the January long weekend. The caravan park was fully booked with Ulysses members coming from most branches and riding groups in SA and some from Victoria. Our Fleurieu Ulysses Catering Corp (FUCCers) took care of the food with Sunday night at the pub for a meal. Next year we will be doing a get-together for all Ulyssian members at Normanville, so watch out for more details. The Mouth to the Mountains is another great event that we have got full support from our members. It will be a fabulous strip together to enhance fellowship of an AGM. How good does it get?!

Another of the new innovations within our rides calendar is to integrate our rides with other branches and riding groups. This year, we are looking forward to catching up with the Yorke Peninsula mob for a couple of weekends of rides, friendship and follies! Our rides calendar is put together at our Beast Feast in August and we could love to see other branches and riding groups come along to integrate their calendar with ours. Please contact us if you would like to do something together.

We would love to catch ya on one of our rides or weekends away. To find out more details, please ring Jono (Rides Captain) on 0417 808 787 or if you want to come to our meetings, they are held at 8.00 pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Willunga Gold Club, St Peters Terrace, Willunga. Meals and full bar facilities are available from 6.00 pm.

**Ride with joy, fun and friendship
Regards
Hobbit**

Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots and lots of time with him/her



Three weeks in the Yukon and Alaska (Part 2)

- Roger Knapp

Thursday 31st July

The weather was overcast and the temp 12deg when we left Dease Lake after a good night's rest and an excellent evening meal prepared by Wes. Soon after we departed, the sealed road deteriorated to dirt for the next 30km which, had it been raining, could have been very slippery and dangerous. We were still on highway 37, the Stewart/Cassiar highway, and heading north. The countryside was dense forest covering low mountains running alongside the Dease River which often turned into a long lake, one about 30km long. The temperature dropped to 10deg as we rose up the mountain chain to cross over to the east for the rest of the run to Junction 37, where highway 37 meets the Alaska Highway in the Yukon Territory. From there we turned west on a greatly improved road and the scenery turned dryer and the trees much smaller, Black Spruce and Poplar and no sign of the pine beetle which cannot survive the long cold winters.

Our destination for today was Rancheria, a truck stop in the middle of nowhere which attracts residents with way out attitudes, similar to those you might find in outback Australia. Inside the cafe were several stuffed animals from the surrounding hills, a Wolverine, a Beaver, a Moose and several other small animals. The waiter, who happened to be the owner's husband, was dressed like a trucker and full of stories from the area.

Once again the six of us were bunked in a small room with two double beds and one couple on the floor. It was my turn to share a bed with Sam (in our sleeping bags)

Friday 1st August – Whitehorse, Yukon

After an excellent nights sleep, sharing a double bed with Sam in our sleeping bags, we had breakfast at the cafe served by our trucking waiter, in the same clothes he wore last night. (Who am I to criticize when I am still in the same clothes after three days?) I filled up with petrol (gas) and headed out on the last leg to Whitehorse. The bike, by the way, needs to be refueled every two hundred & twenty km and that's after changing over to reserve at 180km.

The scenery was similar to yesterday with many rivers running alongside the road, large swampy areas littered with decaying logs and distant mountains scattered with snow.

The road surface has been from excellent to average, sealed of course, with wide verges cleared of all vegetation. Teslin is a small community located about half way along our route for the day and is situated on the shores of Teslin Lake which is 125km long. The local Indians are the Tlingit and their history is portrayed in the George Johnston Museum. The local fauna are immortalized through Taxidermy in delightful dioramas in a display hall next to the Shell Service Station. This is one of the most impressive displays of stuffed animals I have ever seen. It is disappointing that such beautiful animals should be killed however.

We made Whitehorse at around 3.30pm and found the Robert Service Campground where we pitched camp for the night. A quick trip back into town to pick up supplies and do a little exploring was followed by a meal of stew, bread rolls and cookies. Due to the high latitude, 61deg north, we are now experiencing 19 hours of daylight. Time to clean up and get to bed.

Sunday 3rd August. Dawson City, 3064km from Vancouver.

Pike, dead man, bear and a Croatian all in one day.

We left Whitehorse at 9.00am heading for Dawson City and all was running well. At Carmaks we met up with our part time team mate, Barb, and her husband Horst was following in the motor home. We stopped at a beautiful lake for a break in the warm sun (22deg) and while washing my face in the cool water I was observed by a baby pike just out of arms length but making sure that he was not out too deep as to become a victim of bigger fish. Not long after that, while riding alone, I came upon a mother bear and two cubs, very shy but keen to get her cubs off the road as quick as she could so I was unable to get a photo in time.

A little further along, me at the back of the group as usual, I was startled by a police vehicle passing with sirens blaring. As we doing around 110km per hour in a 90km zone, I expected to be pulled over, but no, he continued on, so I thought he was going to pull the entire group over, but no again; he sped on with sirens blaring. Two minutes later we came to the cause for the apparent panic, a man lay dead in the middle of the left lane alongside a road maintenance vehicle and we were waved on. We found out at our next stop that the man was a road maintenance worker and had suffered a heart attack.

We next stopped at Gravel Lake for a rest break and looked out across a beautiful sea of green, where two white swans and several small ducks added to the serenity. A very idyllic place. We soon left and the drama for the day commenced. My bike would not gain speed but would idle OK. We turned around and went back to Gravel Lake. After several attempts to analyze the problem it was decided that a new battery was required. Debbie, Wes and Sam drove off towards Dawson Creek to get help and Sue and Chris stayed with me as it was 6.30pm by this time and it was likely to be some time before help came. Chris did some emergency wire tracking and found that the loose wire problem I had experienced earlier had returned, probably due to the patch of rough road we had recently experienced. He fixed the problem, but, unfortunately, the battery was passed recovery. At 9.00pm Sam returned to say that they had secured the help of a Croatian guy with a large pickup truck. Once loaded up with the bike and all my gear, my new found best friend, Ivan, proceeded to tell me all he knew about the Yukon. He is a gold miner, surprise, surprise, and my education in all things mining was completed over the next three hours. Half way into Dawson Creek, Ivan decided that we should stop for a beer to add to his already obvious over consumption of the amber fluid. Once in Dawson Creek we proceeded to look for my fellow travellers, who had changed our plans for accommodation for the night,



Dawson Creek

due to a better choice. An hour after arriving in Dawson Creek, we eventually found the group, who were, by this time, convinced that I had been kidnapped by the Croatian. With the bike unloaded, Ivan bade farewell; I was showered and into bed by 12.30am in broad daylight.

Today we, Chris actually, checked out the bike in detail to make sure that when we get a battery tomorrow, Monday, all will be well. We rode into town with me on the back of Wes' bike and explored the old buildings and a little of the town's history. In the afternoon we joined a shuttle speed boat for a trip down river to Moosehide where the Indians of the region were having their biannual gathering. This was a memorable and moving experience with grog and drugs banned. The celebrations ended with all 400 people joining hands while the elders said prayers to their creator, and then they led us all around the circle to thank those who attended. Every person who attended the closing ceremony was given a present in the Indian tradition. The presents had all been provided by local businesses in the form of donations to the event.

Dawson City is a most unusual town in a most unusual Territory. There is little respect for the law or government but enormous respect for the individual. The town came about as a result of the massive gold finds in the area in 1897 which led to an invasion by would be millionaires who had to cross over the coastal mountain range from Skagway to Whitehorse where they built boats to float down the Yukon River to what is now Dawson City. All buildings in the town are subject to subsidence into the permafrost and as a consequence are built on trestles of 6x6 timbers which can be jacked up each year to compensate for any settling. The existing buildings are painted in bright colours which no doubt counters the depressive winter. Tonight we attended the Casino of Diamond Tooth Gertie where there are three floor shows every night throughout the summer. I was one of four men chosen to accompany the dancing girls on stage to attempt a dance of some sort. As a reward we were given a garter which we had to remove ourselves from our respective partner's leg. A small trophy of my time in Dawson city, land of the midnight sun.

Tuesday 5th August. Dawson city

Our first trip today was a short 5km drive up the Klondike River Valley to the site of an operating gold mine. David, the owner, graciously showed us around the workings. The first action is to remove the 6m of permafrost soil then another 6m of very coarse gravel (river rounded stones up to 300mm in diameter) then they recover the 600mm of ground from on top of the bedrock which is coarse grade down to fine sand. They process around 1200tonnes per day and this gives about 1 tonne of gold bearing sand. The sand is then put through a rotating barrel and then a spiral grader to give 90% pure gold which is then hand picked to remove the few remaining contaminants such as garnet, pyrites and magnetite. This left around 50 ozs of gold valued at US\$960 an ounce. Not bad for one day's work. To achieve this haul, David has a couple of million dollars worth of machinery.



50ozs of Gold

Next, we took the ferry across the wide Yukon River to drive 30km along the "Top of the World Highway". A great experience, riding on partially made roads up to 1500m altitude and looking out at the 360deg view of the mountains in the Yukon and Alaska. The Alaskan border and the Mining town of Chicken is just 100km from Dawson City but this was not our itinerary.

6th August. Whitehorse, Yukon

Yesterday, in Dawson city after a late start, we drove out to Bonanza Creek, the site of the first gold strike in 1896, where we saw an old Gold dredge abandoned in 1955. In 1991 the Canadian government sent in the Army to restore the dredge as a tourist exhibit which is now run by Parks Canada. The dimensions of the dredge are mind boggling, but a picture will tell a thousand words. The buckets weigh 2 tonne each and there were 62 in the chain to dig up gold bearing rock from as deep as 10m. The dredge, built in 1902, was run with electricity supplied from a nearby Hydro dam built specifically to supply power to the dredges. At its peak the dredge was producing 500 oz per day and it was paid for within two months of commencing work. Four men would operate the dredge but it required 150 to do all of the peripheral work which included thawing out the permafrost with steam hoses.

In the afternoon we walked around the town to take in the colour of the place and visited the home of Robert Service, a Canadian poet who lived for two years in Dawson City in the early 1900s. Jack London, author of Call of the Wild, also lived in Dawson City early last century.

The local Museum, originally the Administrative Centre, is a magnificent two story timber building and is full of local memorabilia. The colours of the buildings are many and varied but yellow, blue and red dominate the town. Apart from the riverfront street all roads in the town are dirt and must be a nightmare in winter when they get 11m of snow.

An interesting feature of the town is the effort the townspeople must make to avoid sinking the buildings into the permafrost, is to build the houses on blocks of wood which are added to as the building subsides due to heating from within the building.

Wes cousins Allan and Myna Green, who work and live on a mine site about 10km out of town, invited us out to their Caravan for a BBQ dinner where we all enjoyed a great evening over wine and good food.

Today, we rode the 540km south from Dawson City to Whitehorse. We left at around 10.00am and after a long day with the occasional break we arrived in Whitehorse at 6.30pm. The day was overcast to fine with a little sun and the temperature varied between 8 and 17deg. The road was mainly good sealed surface with a bout 30km of dirt where repairs are under way. Along the road we are often met with the strong sweet smell of a local grass with long yellow fronds of small white flowers.



Thursday 7th August. Whitehorse

Today we made the round trip from Whitehorse to Skagway, Alaska, 180km each way. We started out riding through the Yukon then into British Columbia and ended up in Alaska, all in 180km. sounds confusing and I still can't work where we were as the sun was never where it should be. The first 50km passed through rolling hills heavily wooded with trees about 8m high but further on the terrain became mountainous with many large lakes which were effectively linked together by one river. As we rose in altitude and approached the Alaskan border the terrain became quite barren with stunted trees amid a moonlike landscape created by a long gone glacier which scraped the area clean of soil. The Canadian customs post is about 10km inside the actual border and the American Customs about 10km the other side of the border. The actual border is at White Pass at an altitude of 1800m and was shrouded in thick fog giving us riding visibility of 25m which was quite challenging while riding. At the American border post the rest of the team passed through on their Canadian passports without a hiccup but I was delayed by half an hour while I completed the mandatory forms, had my finger prints and photo taken and then I had to pay \$6 for the privilege. From there the ride to Skagway was all down hill. Skagway is situated at the end of a fiord, the Lynn Canal, between two mountain ranges and there were four Cruise ships in port which had deposited 9000 people in the town for the day. The town is extremely tourist oriented but that is to be expected and in spite of this it was very pleasant to walk the streets among the throng of luxury tourists. We felt that we had the edge over the common tourists as we had made the journey overland in the spirit of the early gold rush participants.

Skagway, or more correctly Dyea, was the starting point for the gold rush to Dawson City and the would be miners had to climb up 3000ft to Chilcoot Pass and the walk thirty miles to Bennett Lake where they built rude boats which took them down the Yukon River to Dawson City. They were a tough bunch and not all of them men, several women made the trip as well. We explored the ruins of the small port facilities and village of Dyea before leaving for our late trip back to Whitehorse.



Fort Nelson Signpost Forest

Friday 8th August. Whitehorse

We all slept in late this morning as we decided to stay over in Whitehorse another day to take in the local sights.

A shopping trip down into the city/town (22,000 population) to buy groceries and a few odds and ends at Canadian Tire brought our supplies up to scratch. These stores are huge general hardware/ auto supplies and camping stores where you can get just about

anything. Next door was a Wal-Mart but my Canadian friends refuse to shop there due to their poor personnel relations. As an additional way to attract business Wal-Mart provide power outlets at all lighting



Road Hazard

poles in their parking lots and encourage motor home owners to stay overnight. As a result, the parking lots are half full of holiday makers looking for a cheap stopover. I believe that this is the practice all over North America,

After a quick lunch we rode a couple of km to Myles Canyon where the Yukon River has cut its way through solid rock to form a 400m long narrow cut. As a consequence the green waters flow through with considerable speed. Upstream a little, we found a group of young boys diving into the water from a cliff and swimming to a safe landing before the swift current caught up with them. The weather was warm, around 25deg and a few clouds in the sky. We walked along the cliff top for about an hour, photographed a pair of Squirrels and then returned to our bikes. As we crossed the suspension bridge a 15m show boat came plowing up against the current making hard work of it and at times barely moving against the rushing current.

Our next port of call was an interpretive museum dedicated to the ice age history of Beringia, the ancient name of Alaska/ Yukon and the bearing sea. It was very informative with several dioramas showing how the natives survived the enormous changes brought about by the melting of the ice cover. Several displays were dedicated to the Woolly Mammoth which became extinct around ten thousand years ago, probably due to overhunting by the natives.

Around 5.30 pm we rode 20km out to the Tahkini Hot Springs and enjoyed a therapeutic dip in the pools at around 40deg temp. The pool area was home to several ground squirrels which I was able to photograph. As we had been invited to dinner at Wes's distant cousins we left around 7.00pm to ride back into town to her home in a hillside suburb. A pleasant evening was had by all and we arrived back at our Motel room at 12.30am. By the way, all six of us share a Motel room, when we are not camping, and in this case there were two double beds in one room so the two couples had the beds while Sam and I found a spot to roll our bed rolls on the kitchen floor. (Final next issue)



Dawson City - in the mountains



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Be careful what you wish for.....

A guy goes to see the doctor because he's been a little too well endowed, shall we say. In fact, it's 25 inches long. Can't get any women to have sex with him. Anyway, the doctor says there's nothing he can do medically, but sends him to see a Witch that he thinks might be able to help.

The Witch takes a look at the problem (yikes!) and tells him to go to a particular pond, deep in the forest, and talk to a frog that lives there. "Ask the frog to marry you and each time the frog says no, you'll be 5 inches shorter." Worth a try, he thinks, and off he dashes into the forest.

He finds the pond and sees the frog on the other side, sitting on a log. "Will you marry me?" he calls to the frog. The frog looks at him, disinterested at best, and calls back, "No!" The guy looks down, sure enough, he's 5 inches shorter. Hey this is great, he thinks-let's try that again. "Will you marry me?" he asks the frog. The frog rolls his eyes, and shouts back again, "No!" Twitch-the guy's down to 15 inches.

Well, that's still a bit excessive, he thinks. Down another 5 would be perfect. So he calls across again, "Will you marry me?"

The frog yells back, "Look - how many times do I have to tell you?" No! No! No!"

Thought for the day



Handle every stressful situation like a dog:
 If you can't eat it or play with it,
 Just pee on it and walk away!