

Ride 565 Report – 29 September 2019

Coo Chi Coo's Birthday Ride!

Hares: Coo Chi Coo

Two dozen of the faithful converged at Pepys Road Car Park for an annual event – a birthday ride hosted by Bike Hasher Emeritus, Coo Chi Coo. Today's gathering was on his home turf, with the ride to be followed by a poolside buffet lunch. With an offer of free food and booze for the bikini-adorned women, what was not to like?

Coo Chi Coo stepped forward to announce that due to bureaucracy and regulations, today's ride would be a led one ("like what we used to do in the old days," he quipped). The cohort was rearing to go as we followed him down Pepys Road before we nearly ran into each other as we came to a halt at the bottom of the hill. It proved to be the first of many T-checks that day, and Coo Chi Coo seemingly made us do them all. As we made our way through the grassy patch close to where a former opium factory was located, I nearly had a crash of the day moment when my front wheel dipped into a rabbit hole and I almost went over the handlebars. Fortunately, it was a momentary scare and I recovered just a few pedal strokes later.

We continued through Hort Park before arriving at Depot Road. We wended our way towards the Green Corridor, which can now be called the Paved Corridor and has lost much of its rustic charm in the process. At this point, Coo Chi Coo slowed to a stop and said, "Right, you're on your own now!" Like a father sending his children off to the playground to fend for themselves, he watched as the group dispersed. One faction, with Brick Shithouse, Wet Beaver, Goes Both Ways, Copy Cat, and others, headed over an open field in a circuitous route to reach Kent Ridge Park. Another faction, comprising TI Joe, Too Easy, Fat Crashing Bastard, Rough Sex and the Scribe, opted for a more direct route to South Buona Vista Road. Yet another group, featuring Sonny and Flaming Anus, f&*ked off somewhere before the Green Corridor – they already had a premonition that this ride was a sham, a farce, a chump's game...

Everyone had a go at the black-diamond course at Kent Ridge Park, known for swallowing 26-inch frames and their riders whole with its undulating switchbacks and rocky terrain. Riders emerged in dribs and drabs, some of them stopping off for a coffee at Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub, recently opened at the base of South Buona Vista Road. Some of us returned home for a shower and a change of clothes before making our way to the Circle at Pepys Road Car Park. My Precious Arse was waylaid at home, perhaps changing his baby's diapers, and was not to be seen again that day. His morning leave pass had apparently expired. Rough Sex and I reached the Circle just as it was disbanding, so we proceeded up the steep slope in a Grab taxi to enter the hallowed gates of The Peak. A sunglass-adorned Coo Chi Coo was on security duty at the entrance, making sure that Bike Hash members could enter and the riff-raff stayed out.

Fifteen of us clustered around the picnic table that had been set up thanks to our gracious hosts. We were joined by Fiona Corbett, who came for the Circle and luncheon but gave the ride a miss. We learned that her son, Cameron, is now married and teaching in Thailand. No doubt he is still too good looking. Of course, all of us were missing Roger in our own way...

We tucked into a wonderful buffet of shrimp, tofu, meat and veggies. Brick Shithouse had a grand time playing a squirt gun game with his twins in the pool, while Rough Sex caused Coo Chi Coo to become light-headed when she gave him a birthday hug in her bikini. He recovered by nursing a beer from the cooler that he was thoroughly enjoying until he was informed that it was Heineken 0 (alcohol-free). "What's the point?" he uttered. The very concept must be anathema to an Aussie.

Today's Bike Hash can't be assessed alongside the others we've ridden in 2019 because as a ride, it was lacking in both distance and variety. But today's gathering was not so much about "the ride" – it was about spending time with a charismatic, cheeky and loveable Old Fart who has brought immense joy and value-add to the Singapore Bike Hash since its earliest days. The saying goes, one gets to be more stubborn with each passing year, which Coo Chi Coo demonstrates all too well when he insists on setting his Birthday Ride by himself every year. Will he reach out to enlist a Co-Hare next year? Or will our veteran Hasher continue with his dubious DIY scheme? Only time will tell...

Do come out this Sunday, 6 October for what promises to be another outstanding outing in Johor, Malaysia. Remember to wake up early because the ride will commence at 9:00am sharp. Allow ample time to clear customs and find your way to the venue. You can read the full directions to reach Setia Eco Gardens on the website. If you have room for others in your vehicle, spread the word and we look forward to more glorious single track that you can only find in Malaysia. Let's see if Ride 566 – Back to Nature Ride Too! – will earn the coveted title of "Ride of the Year!"

Chorus: Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear Coo Chi Coo, Happy Birthday to you! Drink it down, down, down, down, down...

Until the next ride, on on!

Scribed by: Knobby Boy Scout