

South Bruce 200 2011 Ride Report

by
Carey Chappelle

WHAT A RIDE!!! Friday night, Dick Felton, John Maccio, Terry Payne, Liz Overduin, Adriaan Verhulst and Bill Little joined my wife and I at the Elk & Finch for dinner. The Chef, Bill Hodgkins came over to our table to see if everyone was enjoying their meals and wished us well on the 200km brevet the next day. I let everyone know that Bill had actually finished his first 200km brevet last September and he let everyone know that he would love to qualify and do the 2019 PBP!

Saturday morning, it started to rain as we headed to Tim Horton's for the START. Leaving Port Elgin, we pedalled into a STRONG HEAD WIND! The rain was so STRONG we had to keep our heads down to try and reduce the facial pain. 18km and just over an hour after our start, I passed Bill Little who had stopped to make some seat adjustments... we made eye contact, he had a smile on his face as the wind was pushing him away from his bicycle and there was nothing he could do about it...I couldn't stop laughing at this sight! We arrived at the first Control with only 30minutes to spare, had our Cards signed and headed back into the WIND. We had lost John Maccio and Jakub Ner but hoped they would be there soon! Unfortunately, John Maccio arrived at the Control a little late and DNF'd. Jakub Ner, fortunately, arrived with 3 minutes to spare, had his Card signed and headed back into the WIND.

Soon after leaving the first Control in Walkerton, two cyclists were sent in directions beyond their control! Con Melady headed off the asphalt towards the ditch and Terry Payne headed to the other lane...fortunately both stayed upright and no other traffic was around. Bill Little and myself travelled with only a 10 degree angle from being upright while the lean, mean cycling machines...particularly Nathan Klages... were at 45degrees to the road! 10km from Wingham, Bill Little's back tire decided to let the air out, so we stopped and watched Bill learn how to use his new pump up tool (cylinder of air rather than a pump). Con Melady decided to lay down and take a quick nap while Bill pressurized his new tube. Once at the Tim Horton's in Wingham we had a great lunch and noticed the flags outside letting us know how easy things were going to be for the return home!! The average speed to Kincardine was 42km / hr., and man... did that FEEL GOOD! We all loved that the hard part of this ride was the first half and that we felt we won the lottery for the second half. Liz Overduin and Adriaan Verhulst stayed together, which in wind like this, was essential. If I had, had a camera, I would have taken a picture of Liz's new bicycle...GORGEOUS...CLASSY! Everyone came over to my place for dinner, some wine and great stories about this ride. WOW!

Dick Felton's Report

I am sure glad that the Huron chapter went out to do our first 200 (South Bruce) on Saturday. We saw the forecast for Sunday and wondered "IF" many riders would even attempt it.

Kudos to all who started and extra applause to those who finished - nice job people!! (oh yea - even some good karma to the people who had the good sense to stay home)

Just to fill you in a little about Saturday's Huron Chapter ride - we too had a heck of a day - driving rain

and winds to begin with - for the first 103 KM - making the first two (2) controls with the wind in our faces was difficult. The second control at 103 KM took us approximately 6 hours 15 minutes. Winds on Saturday did gust up to the 65KPH+ range with a number of us blown off the road - me personally a couple of times. The next 60 KM after Wingham was a treat however - rain had stopped and the wind was at our back. Some of the riders recorded 52 KPH on a flat run going west towards the lake. The last hundred took only about 4 hours with the majority of us finishing between 10 hours and 10:35 hours. Sweet ride when the wind is at your back.

Liz rode her first Brevet after her surgery and this lady has the heart of a lion - she finished strong and happy (although we did ask her if she made her customary statement about wishing the ride would not end - NOT!!) AND I might add - on her new Giant bike - nice ride.

John, Jacob, Liz, Adrian, myself, Terry, Con, Nathan, Bill and Carey had a great day - we ate dinner together at the Elk and Finch on Friday night, when one of our randonneurs Bill is the chef and then had dinner at Carey's house where Donna outdid herself (as usual) with terrific meal to replenish ourselves after the ride.

The Huron Chapter is officially under way for another year and as Carey pointed out during dinner - "anyone who has completed a series of Huron Chapter rides has always finished PBP" - so "IF" you want to ensure your success on a long August ride - come on up and ride with the Huron Chapter!!!