

In a scene reminiscent from the Warriors (for the uninitiated or the young a 1970's cult film about NY gangs coming together for a meeting) the various mt. bike clubs of the Southern Malay peninsula so to descended on Kota Tinggi Falls for a gathering of the clans. The ~~Warlords~~ sorry Singapore Bike Hash, the pale skinned ANZA, Kota Tinggi Riders, the Plentong Boys, the Carriers distinguished by their large 50litre backpacks and led by the old stalwart George himself, the Picnickers notably for their ability to stop every 100m lay out a tablecloth and proceed to have a snack. In all it was rumoured that there may have been up to one hundred and fifty riders, a truly awesome number. To cater for such a crowd our hares had put in a huge amount of work in mapping and marking out the trails. In fact Neo, chief of the Plentong tribe and Commander in Chief of the whole operation, and his crew had spent a lot of time cutting and connecting fresh trail. Assisted by the SBH liaison officers and resident JB duo of Copy Cat and Goes Both Ways who had dragged in a whole team of extra's in a virgin hare training exercise including Mark, David, Dan, Ah Beng, TI Joe to name a few (apologies if your name is not listed) meant that we truly - in the words of Cecil B. DeMille - "had a cast of thousands"!!

The scene was sent then for a great Sunday morning ride, which did not quite start to plan as the original car park soon become overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of enthusiastic riders who started turning up from nine o'clock onwards. Soon it became apparent that the car park would burst which was when the hasty decision to move to the Falls car park was taken. This caused mass confusion as people turning up late were then bemused by the fact that they were "the only people here??"and turn up late they did. The new JB immigration complex may look posh from an aerial view but in terms of practical usage on a scale of one to ten would barely make one! Eight lane of Causeway traffic are funneled down into one and a bit lanes (not quite two but more than one – so of course 50% of the drivers take the half a lane in the misguided belief that it would get them to the front quicker. Wrong!) resulting in an agonizing wait, akin to an centuries old slow Chinese torture, that had the knock on effect that half the people coming from Singapore were late. Finally at ten-thirty the huge ensemble was called to order and sent on their way. Riders everywhere! In fact it was almost as crowded, in a bike equivalent, as the Causeway had been just a few hours earlier. This prompted "No Good" in an attempt to beat the crowds to cycle off into the forest on her own never to be seen again! The pack hammered through the woods. The pale skinned ANZA attempting to prove that they were the equal of their road riding brothers jostling for the front were kept at bay by the more hash experienced bike hash riders. Excellent trail with good checks kept the pack reasonably well grouped with the result that most people arrived at the half way water stop together – well apart from "No Good" of course who was off on her secret little trail. This concerned "Coo Chi Coo" well for a few seconds anyway before he realized that the front riders were off on part two. Not wishing to be left behind he had to make a snap decision – the well being of No Good or ride with the boys? Of course he choose the later and was off like a shot. The water stop was an oasis of pleasure on a very hot day. Unlimited supply of ice cold 100+ and water a most welcome relief after 18km of tough off-road riding. The second half of the ride with a long and short split with an excellent single track through the woods was well worth the journey up from Singapore. By this time though we had 150 riders spread over half of Southern Johor. As a result people were arriving in dribs and drabs back at the car park to the point where the traditional circle had to be abandoned due to the lack of participants and the fact that the hares had to go back out on trail to round up and rescue the lost including No Good who had finally after four hours made it to the point where the water stop had been.

A excellent ride, we are indebted to the work of Neo and his team for the mammoth effort they put in to provide us with a truly remarkable and unforgettable trail. We truly appreciate your dedication to the cause and envy the fact that this is your "back garden" so to speak and can choose to ride such fantastic trails whenever. With that it was back into the cars for the long, slow laborious drive back to Singapore.

On On

Barbarian
Grand Master
Singapore Bike Hash