

Riders,

I have sent you the Map My Ride details for the ride. As you see, the ride has 5 climbs and has just under 5000 feet of climbing. This isn't an easy bike ride. It is a perfect challenging ride for the early Fall. See <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/22263836>

The first climb is on County Road 39 and is 16 miles into the ride. It is the most difficult climb of the day averaging 6.8% over 2.6 miles. Every bit as tough as Keel Mtn. The climb is followed by a difficult descent down Co. Rd. 33

The second climb is on County Rd. 21 and it climbs to Hwy. 79 but turns left at the top rather than turning right to continue climbing up 79 to Skyline. This isn't a tough climb except for the last 100 yards at the intersection of Co. Rd. 21 and Hwy 79.

The third climb of the day is on County Rd. 17 which climbs Skyline Mtn. This is the longest climb of the day at over 3.5 miles. It is a long climb but it is a good road. It has a couple of false flats and kicks up a little at the top.

There is a long ride to the next climb. The ride follows Co. Rd. 8 across Syline and Pleasant Grove and drops off with a tough fast ascent into Woodville. The ride then goes through Woodville and goes across Hwy 72 and begins the climb to Grant up Cathedral Caverns/Co. Rd. 5 which is 2 miles long. It is a hard climb at a constant 5.2 % The ride continues through Grant and goes off Grant towards Hwy 431 before doubling back and climbing back onto Grant.

The final climb isn't hard by itself. But, after a long day the 3 mile climb is a leg burner on fresh legs and will be much harder at this point of the ride.

The ride then continues through Grant and Sweargin before dropping off Co. Rd. 77 and retuning to Scottboro on Hwy 79 (as if coming from Guntersville).

This ride is a challenging ride. It's not for everyone. I made it hard for the challenge. It's the toughest ride in Alabama. Yes, I have a few Cheaha jerseys. Overall, this is a much harder ride.

I am finalizing the plans for the post race festivities. I am planning on using the Scottsboro Rec Center for the start and finish. This would allow riders to shower and even swim if they wanted. Or, at least soak.

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