

# Tuesday Night Mountain Bike Rides

thanks to: Doug Burnside

These rides will take place every Tuesday evening throughout the summer, rain or shine. Be ready to ride at 7:00PM, we'll leave as soon as everyone is ready.

These rides will most definitely be rides, NOT races. The fun part of a group ride is riding in a group, socializing, meeting new people, and trying new trails. The idea is to keep the group together. It's almost easier to define what these rides aren't than what they are. They are *not* races. They are *not* training rides. They are *not* rides for people whose idea of a good time is to push the limits, get a hard workout, or see how fast they can go on a trail. They are *not* highly organized rides. They *are* rides that will be fun even for novice riders with limited off-road experience, and there will be experienced riders to offer advice, riding hints and mechanical help. All riders must be Fairbanks Cycle Club members. Rates are \$30 for the season, or you can have a one-day membership for just \$5.

Rides are rated in both skill required and overall difficulty. Skill refers to bike handling ability. Rides that aren't technically challenging require little skill, and receive a low rating. Challenging trails like "Moose Mountain" are almost impossible to ride from one end to the other without coming off the pedals. These trails receive a high skill rating. The difficulty scale pertains to total energy and effort required by the cyclist. Difficulty ranges from easy ("Eva Creek Trail") to exceptionally hard ("Pipeline Viewpoint"). We've tried to schedule easy rides early in the season. A difficulty level of 1 would be equivalent to riding your bike on a gravel road with rolling hills for half an hour. A level of 10 would be like riding from Anne's Greenhouse to the top of Ester Dome and back – three times.

**5/4/10 "University Ski Trails" 15 miles, 2.5 hours, 1500' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 5**

Meet at the Ski Hut by the Geophysical Building on campus and if conditions permit, we'll explore the ski trails until we've had enough. One of the most fun short trails in Fairbanks is the Bicycle Bumps trails and we'll probably do it twice. Sloppy conditions might put us on the road.

**5/11/10 "Rosie Creek" 20 Miles, 3 hours, 1800' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 6**

Meet at the intersection of Cripple Creek Road on the Parks Highway, about two miles past Ester. We'll do a boring five mile ride up the Parks Highway to the Rosie Creek wood cutting road, just past the intersection with Old Nenana Highway. This will take about an hour, but it is a gentle climb. Then we enter the logging roads and pick our route. After being lost for a while, we'll end up on Rosie Creek road, with a four or five mile ride back to the cars. Many of our serious crashes have occurred on this ride, so please take it easy on the downhills.

**5/18/10 "Skyline Ridge" 19 miles, 3.0 hours, 2100' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 5**

Meet at Dog Musers Hall on Farmers Loop. We'll find our way up Skyline Ridge some interesting way, doing some decision-making along the way. When the time comes, there'll be some entertaining descents back to the cars.

**5/25/10 "Eva Creek Trail" 8 miles, 2.0 hours, 800' elevation gain Skill Low Difficulty 4**

Meet at Ester Community Park, located next to the Fire Station on the Old Nenana Highway just before the turnoff into Ester. We'll find some agreeable way up Ester Dome that gets us to the Marathon Trail near the mine. If conditions permit, we'll take the Back Door Trail (or whatever it's called) back into Ester. This trail is downhill for 90% of the distance (about 4 miles) and is a LOT of fun. This early in the season it may be muddy, and there will be three puddles to ride through that could be as deep as 18--24 inches.

**6/1/10 "Ester Mine Trail" 10.5 Miles, 3 hours, 2310' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 6**

Meet at Ester Community Park. We'll take the TriCon road all the way to the top of Ester Dome. This is an arduous climb, but since we won't be racing, there's no reason to thrash yourself doing it. Taking an extra 20 minutes up the hill makes it a fun experience. We might go down the Alder Chute, then pick up the Eva Creek Trail back into Ester. There's always alternatives, though, so you never know. Note: Riding down the Alder Chute is not a good idea for the faint of heart. This is a very difficult and challenging descent requiring above average bike handling skills. This will be the most dangerous trail we will ride the entire summer and if you are not fully confident of your abilities, you should walk your bike down this hill -- about 3/10 of a mile.

**6/8/10 "Treasure Creek" 16 Miles, 2.5 hours, 2400' elevation gain Skill Med.+ Difficulty 7**

Meet at the intersection of Old Murphy Dome Road and the Elliot Highway, about 3.5 miles north of Fox. Ride west on Old Murphy Dome for about six miles or so, turning right onto a double track that leads along a ridge. There are two forks, and we need to go right, then left. Somebody remember this. After another six miles, we connect with the pipeline corridor, which we follow back to Old Murphy Dome Road.

**6/15/10 "Birch Hill Ski Trails" 12 miles, 3 hours, 2300' elevation gain Skill Med.+ Difficulty 6**

Follow the leader, as hard or easy as we want to make it. These trails are a LOT of fun. They are safe, fast, challenging and entertaining, particularly if some cross-country skier who knows the trails can lead us. There are trails up there that are NOT part of the ski trail system that we can explore as well.

**6/22/10 "Amanita Death Ride" 16 Miles, 3 hours, 2300' elevation gain Skill Med. + Difficulty 6**

Meet at about 3.5 mile Chena Hot Springs Road, at Steele Creek Road. We'll ride up Amanita (using trails as much as possible) and ride up to Gilmore Trail. We'll make a right at the fork, and ride out the mining road down the really steep hill and then the swamp. After the swamp we find ourselves on Smallwood, which takes us back to CHSR.

**6/29/10 "Nugget Victoria" 21 Miles, 4 hours, 2900' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 8**

Meet at the dirt turnaround on Gilmore Trail at the end of the pavement. We'll ride up Gilmore Trail, past the Trapper trail and take the Nugget Creek descent. At the bottom we turn left and begin the climb back to the ridgetop, a short but brutal climb. After taking in a

view of the Fort Knox mine, we return to Gilmore Trail via the Trapper trail.

**7/6/10 "Clifden to Moose" 23 Miles, 4 hours, 2400' elevation gain Skill Med. + Difficulty 7**

Meet at Ivory Jacks on Goldstream Road. We used to go up O'Connor Creek Trail, but it's been too muddy the last few years, so we'll go out Goldstream road a few miles and up behind the fire station near Clifden road. This connects to a really good trail that takes us to the Pipeline and Old Murphy Dome Road. We'll follow that to the powerline that leads to Moose Mountain ski area and from there we'll take the road bypass trail and a very steep section line down to some subdivision roads, and from there back to Ivory Jacks.

**7/13/10 "Colorado Creek" 21 Miles, 4 hours, 2100' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 8**

**Endurance Alert:** *This is a taxing ride. Be sure to bring food and water - you will burn a lot of calories!*

Start at 31.9 mile Chena Hot Springs Road at the Colorado Creek turnout. We start on the Colorado Creek trail, but a few miles in we leave it and take the Four Mile Ridge trail which puts us back out on Chena Hot Springs Road about 5 miles from where we started. This is the best ride of the whole season from the viewpoint of challenging riding, fun trails, great scenery, and two exciting descents. You'll really be out in the boonies on this ride. If you only do one ride all season, make it this one, provided you are in reasonably good condition. **DO THIS RIDE!**

**7/20/10 "Lincoln – Cache Creek" 15-30 Miles, 3-4 hours, 2600' elevation gain Skill Med. Difficulty 8**

**Endurance Alert:** *This is a taxing ride. Be sure to bring food and water - you will burn a lot of calories!*

Meet at about 7 mile Murphy Dome Road at the gravel pit before the end of the pavement. We'll go up Richard Berry drive, take a trail off the end of that, ultimately fighting our way over to Old Murphy Dome Road. We ride west on OMDR for about 5 miles, where we intersect with Murphy Dome. No doubt some folks will choose to return to the cars at this point. Others continue on out Abraham, into Lincoln Creek subdivision, then picking up a trail that turns into a memorable descent down to Cache Creek Road, then it's 9 miles back to the cars.

**7/27/10 "Pipeline Viewpoint" 30 Miles, 4 hours, 3000' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 9-10**

**Endurance Alert:** *This is a taxing ride. Be sure to bring food and water - you will burn a lot of calories!*

Start at the Pipeline Viewpoint on the Steese Highway just before Goldstream Road. We'll go up the pipeline corridor to Gilmore Trail, take Gilmore Trail to the Trapper Trail which goes along the ridges to Cleary Summit, then past the radar site, turning left on to the Silver Fox trail all the way to the Elliot. To make this ride a 10, continue on Old Murphy Dome Road to the pipeline corridor, following it all the way to Fox. From there it's a short distance to the cars.

**8/03/10 "Behind the Vallata" 20 miles, 4 hours, 2500' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 8**

**Endurance Alert:** *This is a taxing ride. Be sure to bring food and water - you will burn a lot of calories!*

Meet at the Vallata Restaurant on Goldstream Road. We'll ride out Goldstream to the trail behind the fire station, then up the Pack Trail, then west along Old Murphy Dome Road to the trailhead. At the end there's a smoking descent that makes it all worth it. This is a very bumpy trail and full suspension is a good thing to have for this ride

**8/10/10 "Ester Mystery Ride" 13 Miles, 3 hours, 2340' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 7**

**Endurance Alert:** *This is a taxing ride. Be sure to bring food and water - you will burn a lot of calories!*

Meet at the Ester Community Park and find some interesting way to the top of Ester Dome, then find some interesting way down.

Generally, we manage to involve the West Ridge and Fireplug trails, but things change...

**8/17/10 "Compeau Trail" 20 miles, 3+ hours, 1400' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 5**

Meet at 29.9 mile CHSR, gravel parking area on left. Don't pass Twin Bears Camp. We will do some exploring and probably do an out and back ride. Folks who have some experience with this trail will probably do the leading.

**8/24/10 "Two Rivers Ski Trails" 10 miles, 2 hours, 1000' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 5**

Meet at Two Rivers School at about 18 mile Chena Hot Springs Road. We'll play follow the leader on the ski trails behind the school.

There are some fine exploration possibilities there, so it's hard to say what the ride will actually consist of.

**8/31/10 "Cleary Summit Loop" 20 miles, 3 hours, 2700' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 7**

**Lighting Alert:** *You might not need a headlight, but you'll wish you had brought it.*

Drive to Cleary Summit on the Steese, make a right on to Fish Creek Road. Drive up to just past the lodge, and turn onto Fairbanks Creek Road. Park at the pullout at about 2.3 mile. We'll follow the Fairbanks/Circle trail through some high country with great vistas and some fine descents before returning to the cars.

**9/07/10 "Moose Mountain" 15 miles, 3 hours, 1980' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 7**

**Lighting Alert:** *You will really want your headlight on this ride.*

Meet at the gravel pit at 2 mile Murphy Dome road. We'll go over to the Moose Mountain Ski Lodge and take a "forgotten" access road most of the way up to the top, the regular roads/trails the rest of the way up. At that point, we'll have done 10% of the distance, and maybe 65% of the work. We'll follow the power lines over to Old Murphy Dome Road, follow it west on a long, shallow descent that can be ridden really fast, and look for a tiny trail to the left (the "rabbit trail"). This is a technical and challenging downhill all the way back to the ski lodge.

**9/14/10 "Eva Creek" 16 miles, 3 hours, 2100' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 6**

**Lighting Alert:** *You will really, truly need your lights on this ride.*

We'll meet at Ester Community Park, and do some riding on Ester Dome here and there, such that we get to ride the Eva Creek trail back to Ester. You need a proper headlight on this ride.

### **It's not over yet!**

Each Tuesday until the snow is a few inches deep, we go for a "Post Season Tuesday Ride". We set the meeting place/time each prior Tuesday. So, if you aren't ready to hang it all up just yet, do these rides. These can be some of the best rides of the season!