

# Tuesday Night Mountain Bike Rides

thanks to: Father 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. Get a season membership, or buy one-day memberships for just \$5 per ride.

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.

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|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>05/03/11</b>  | <b>"TVEX Mudquest"</b>          | <b>20 Miles, 3 hours, 1800' elevation gain</b>   | <b>Skill High</b>   | <b>Difficulty 6</b> |
| Meet on the Parks Highway, a couple miles past the far end of Old Nenana, at mile 340. We'll wander into the Tanana Valley Experimental Forest, where Eric Troyer will do his level best to get us hopelessly lost. If that doesn't happen, we should end up back at the cars a few hours later, caked in crud. Unknown trails and unknown conditions put the skill at "High."   |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>5/10/11</b>   | <b>"University Ski Trails"</b>  | <b>15 miles, 2.5 hours, 1500' elevation gain</b> | <b>Skill Med</b>    | <b>Difficulty 5</b> |
| 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 trail and we'll probably do it twice. Sloppy conditions might put us on the road.  |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>05/17/11</b>  | <b>"Skyline Ridge"</b>          | <b>19 miles, 3.0 hours, 2100' elevation gain</b> | <b>Skill Med</b>    | <b>Difficulty 5</b> |
| 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.   |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>05/24/11</b>  | <b>"Eva Creek Trail"</b>        | <b>15 miles, 2.0 hours, 800' elevation gain</b>  | <b>Skill Low</b>    | <b>Difficulty 4</b> |
| 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.   |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>05/31/11</b>  | <b>"Ester Mine Trail"</b>       | <b>10.5 Miles, 3 hours, 2310' elevation gain</b> | <b>Skill High</b>   | <b>Difficulty 6</b> |
| 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 aren't racing, there's no reason to thrash yourself doing it. Taking an extra 20 minutes up the hill makes it a fun experience. We may 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 difficult and challenging descent requiring above average bike handling skills. If you are not 100% confident of your abilities, you should walk your bike down this short section. |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>06/07/11</b>  | <b>"Ester Dome Singletrack"</b> | <b>9+ Miles, 2+ hours, 2000'+ elevation gain</b> | <b>Skill Med.+</b>  | <b>Difficulty 7</b> |
| Meet in the Goldstream Sports parking lot, park near the fence. We'll play on the pump track, ride the entire singletrack, and probably climb back up the hill so we can bomb down the Corner Singletrack, and then down the Happy Ridge trail. Way fun, bring your grins. Don't miss this ride!   |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>06/14/11</b>  | <b>"Birch Hill Ski Trails"</b>  | <b>12 miles, 3 hours, 2300' elevation gain</b>   | <b>Skill Med.+</b>  | <b>Difficulty 6</b> |
| 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.  |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>06/21/11</b>  | <b>"Amanita Death Ride"</b>     | <b>16 Miles, 3 hours, 2300' elevation gain</b>   | <b>Skill Med. +</b> | <b>Difficulty 6</b> |
| Meet at about 3.5 mile Chena Hot Springs Road, at Steele Creek Road. We'll ride up the Amanita hill 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.  |                                 |  |                     |                     |
| <b>06/28/11</b>  | <b>"Nugget Victoria"</b>        | <b>21 Miles, 4 hours, 2900' elevation gain</b>   | <b>Skill High</b>   | <b>Difficulty 8</b> |
| 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 30% grade climb. After taking in a view of the Fort Knox mine, we return to Gilmore Trail via the Trapper trail.   |                                 |  |                     |                     |

- 07/05/11 "White Mountains" 20 Miles, 4 hours, 3000' elevation gain Skill High Difficulty 7**  
 Meet at turnout nearest to 23 mile Elliot Highway. Leave room for big trucks to pull through. We'll ride various trails, many of which are technically difficult. There are some excellent vistas to be had, so bring a camera. Remind Tom that we really shouldn't ride the "Ski Loop Trail".
- 07/12/11 "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!*  
 Misnomer ride. Start at 31.6 mile Chena Hot Springs Road at the trailhead turnout. We follow the Stiles Creek trail, not the Colorado Creek trail. Blame Doug. We end up on Chena Hot Springs Road about 5 miles from where we started. This is one of the best rides of the whole season: 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!**
- 07/19/11 "Cache Creek Roam" 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 used to go up Richard Berry drive, take a trail off the end of that, but that had too much Old Murphy Dome road in it, so we'll nose around and see what we find. There are a lot of trails in the area, and some studying of some aerial photos should reveal some good possibilities.
- 7/26/11 "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.
- 8/02/11 "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
- 8/09/11 "Ester Fireplug" 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...
- 8/16/11 "Two Rivers/Compeau Tr." 23 miles, 4 hours, 3000' 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 the intersection for the Two Rivers elementary school at about 18 mile Chena Hot Springs Road. We'll leave some vehicles there, and carpool up to 29.9 mile CHSR. We'll ride up the Compeau trail, turn left and return through the Two Rivers trail system, connecting to the ski trails and back to the school. This ride gets a difficulty of 8 for exertion.
- 8/23/11 "Circle-Fairbanks Trail" 20 miles, 3 hours, 2700' elevation gain Skill Med Difficulty 7**  
**Lighting Alert:** *You will really want your headlight on this ride..*  
 Carpool! Drive to Cleary Summit, and follow Fairbanks Creek Road. When the road makes an abrupt left, follow it. Go to the bottom of the hill, roughly 6 miles from the pavement. Park where another road takes off up to the left. We'll ride up the hill to the Circle-Fairbanks Trail, and go right. New territory for most riders!. Bring headlights for the return trip.
- 8/30/11 "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.
- 9/06/11 "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!