



Dudley's Dream Ride

May 8, 2010 Santa Ysabel, California

70 miles, 8,100' climbing

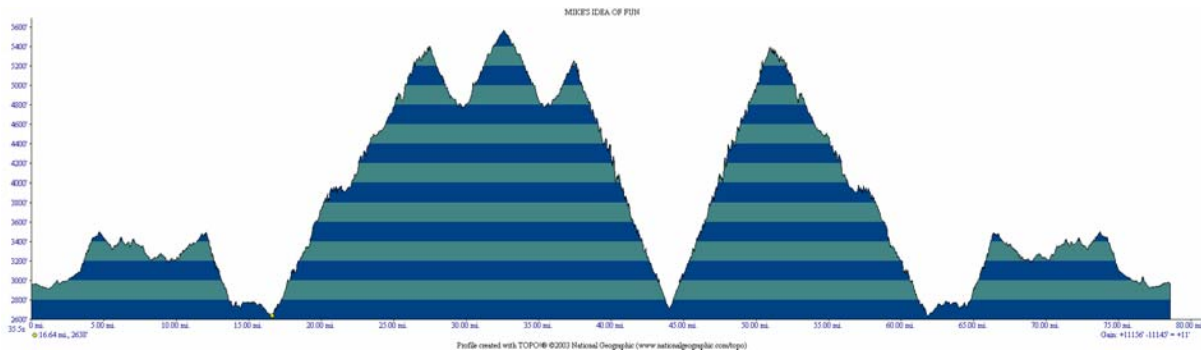
Descenders present: Rick Bienias, Drew Peterson, Dave Guidotti, David Voris, Arlyn Asch, Mike & Sam Hodges, Jeff Cresap, Bernie Bogard, Eric Rehberg, Rob Verfurth, Oleg Shpyrko, Andrew Ulvestad, Mike McGowan, Dave Ernst, Mike (SDSU)

By Robert C. Verfurth



Route and Itinerary:

Start 8:00 am: Dudley's Bakery Santa Ysabel Mesa Grande Henshaw Grade (East Grade of Palomar) Descend South grade to the Y intersection at the 79 Climb South grade Observatory (optional) Mother's (regroup) Descend Henshaw grade Transition through Mesa Grande End of ride at Dudley's Bakery St Ysabel



We had a great ride we had on Saturday. Thanks to Dave Voris for all the route design and planning. We had a great turn-out for a challenging ride. A bunch of guys met at Dudley's: Rick, Voris, Guido, Cresap, Bernie, Oleg, Drew, Eric, me and two young college studs--Andrew (UCSD) and Mike (SDSU). Mike Hodges and his son, Sam, started at Lake Henshaw. Dave Ernst stopped by Dudley's for a cameo and headed to Henshaw due to time constraints. Arlyn and Mike McGowan met us at Dudley's but they did not bring all their equipment so they headed back home for the first of many logistic and mechanical issues they faced that day.



The group rolled out onto route 79 heading toward Mesa Grande. We kept us a steady pace over Mesa Grande and by Lake Henshaw to the bottom of the east grade. This is where I lost everyone so I rode by myself up the east grade. It was a beautiful, bright and cool morning; great climbing weather. I finally made it to the top of Palomar 75 minutes later and hit the descent of the south grade. I flew down the curvy road until car traffic slowed me. I first saw Drew and Rick heading back up the south grade followed by all the other guys spread out over the final mile before the turn around at the Y. I headed up the south grade at a much slower pace and took an hour to get back to the top. I was definitely out for the observatory out and back. I limped to Mother's in search of some food and rest.



Mike Hodges and Sam were there. Bernie was there. Others returned from the observatory looking like they also need to catch their breath. Voris did not want to get too cold at the top, so Jeff and I took off with a lead back down the east grade. We passed Mike and Sam part way down the grade and made it to the bottom where we found Mike McGowan sitting under the tree. He and Arlyn had returned to Dudley's with all their bike gear and headed off in pursuit of us. The rear derailleur snapped off his bike. They tried to shorten the chain and make it a single speed. They were ascending the east grade when the chain finally snapped. They called it a day and Mike was waiting for the return of Arlyn with the car. He showed up just after Jeff and I heard the story. Too bad to them and hope we can do the ride again in the future mechanical problem free.

Jeff and I slowly climbed Mesa Grande. Drew, Voris and Oleg blew by us on the ascent, followed by Rick and the young college guns. Eric was close behind while Guido, Jeff and I swept up the road. Jeff and I continued to lag further behind and we slowly returned to Dudley's, spent riders. I rode 69 miles with 8,100 feet of elevation--great day in the saddle.