

THE IDYLLWILD SPRING CHALLENGE - 2008

19 Mile Course Description

EXPERT WOMEN 40+
SPORT MEN
SPORT WOMEN
OPEN WOMEN SINGLE SPEED
TANDEMS

Here is a step-by-step guide for following the Spring Challenge course. I recommend printing this along with the map if you plan on pre-riding the course in the weeks prior to the race.

The Start/Finish will be located in the Group area 'B' at Hurkey Creek Park. This year's start will head west towards Hurkey Creek and then turn right (north) right before the creek and follow the single track until you reach a Fire Rd. At this point you will turn left towards Hurkey Creek and cross the river then ride straight to the beginning of the "**Keen Camp Climb**".

Keen Camp Climb: This is a gradual climb that gets a little steeper right at the top. It is a little over a mile long.

Recovery Trail: The name says it all. This is a fun roller coaster ride.

Johnson Meadow: A beautiful wide-open mountain meadow with a gradual climb.

May Valley Fire Rd: The climb out of **Johnson Meadow** ends at this dirt road. Turn left on to it and continue to climb.

1st Feed Station: Located on the **May Valley Fire Rd.**

May Valley Fire Rd: Shortly after the feed station you will come to a Y. Veer to the left and continue on past the **Mirkwood** trailhead. The road gains some elevation here. Once the road levels off a bit and you pass the large metal gate look for the first turnout to the left with a dead log on the corner.

Bonita Vista Trail: After turning off of **May Valley Road**, go 20 yards or so and look for the trailhead on the right. It starts over some broken bark. New for 2008 (for some), this trail is a lot of fun. Mainly a downhill, you'll ride some great single track and cross over a section past some large boulders called the *Roman Highway*. Soon after this section you will be close to connecting with the **Mirkwood Trail**.

Mirkwood Trail: When you dead-end into the **Mirkwood Trail** make a sharp right turn. This trail is a great sweeping gradual downhill and ends at an old fire road by an abandoned water tank.

Forest Service Rd. 3E08: New for 2008, this road bypasses the **Coldwater Trail** and hike-a-bike from the past. Turn right on to it from **Mirkwood**. It starts out as a jeep trail but quickly resembles single track. A short distance after you pass through a gate, look for the **Lower Southridge Trail** on your right.

Lower Southridge Trail: This climb is the cyclocross of mountain biking. If you can believe it some have cleared the entire trail! For most, it will be an off and on the bike affair. At a junction about 1/3 up on the trail keep right on the main trail.

2nd Feed Station: Turn left at the top of the trail on to **May Valley Fire Rd.** and during the race you will approach the second Feed Station. Here is the next junction were you will break off to the right for the beginning of the "**Snakeskin Trail**". To find this turnoff prior to the race go to the next turnoff uphill of the Forest Service sign for the "**Southridge Trail**" on the right side of the road. It will be a sharp right and a bit loose in the soil.

Snakeskin Trail: The beginning of the trail starts at the very end of the turnoff you are now on (you will pass a trail that connects into this turnoff from the north. It is the bottom of the **Mid Southridge Trail** that the long course uses). When you enter this trail you stay to the left and ignore any splits to stay on **Snakeskin**. This is another fantastically fun trail and the perfect place to find 'your groove'.

Cahuilla (ka-wee-ah) Cutoff Trail: At the end of **Snakeskin** you will have a choice to go straight or take a sweeping single track turn to your right (if you hit an open dirt road you missed the turn). This is the beginning of the **Cahuilla Cutoff Trail**. It follows a barely recognizable old jeep trail until it turns left onto more distinct single track. This is a climb that tired legs will feel but it is over before you know it. At the top it will make a sharp left on to another old jeep trail for a short distance until you see it connect with a dirt road that heads up and to the right. Pass this and continue straight to the next trail, **Tres Hombres, Uno** (if you end up on a fire road near a gate you accidentally made a right on that last dirt road you should have ignored).

Tres Hombres, Uno: Head into this straight from **Snakeskin**. It doesn't look like much of a trail at the entrance, but trust me, it is there. I have to say the **Tres Hombres** series is one of my favorites. Down hill with some fun rock drop offs makes this exciting. At one point you will see another split where you will want to go straight next to a big boulder. Watch carefully for this because it is easy to miss and make sure you **take the left** that has a step drop down a large rock. If you go straight you will end back on May Valley Rd and have to climb back up to retrace your steps.

Bonita Vista Fire Rd: (not to be confused with the Bonita Vista Trail): **Tres Hombres, Uno** feeds into this. Make a sharp right turn and head up this dirt road.

May Valley Fire Rd: **Bonita Vista Fire Rd.** runs into **May Valley Fire Rd.** Keep to the left at the intersection and head towards the **Exfoliator Trail**.

Exfoliator Trail: This trail starts under a large Black Oak on your left. Well known on the 24 Hrs Of Adrenalin course, this is a fast downhill that will keep you on your toes. At the end it has a short quick climb to an old fire road that is a rippin' fast descent. At the bottom is a sharp left turn that takes you down to Hurkey Creek. Crossing Hurkey Creek will start you on your last major climb up the "**Hurkey Creek Climb**" or "**20 Minute Climb**" (it takes about a quarter of that, really!). At the top is the beginning of **Rage thru the Sage**.

Rage thru the Sage: Stay to the right in the beginning and cruise down this mellow trail and finish with a short, steep climb to the top for the next trail.

Tunnel of Love: At the top of **Rage thru the Sage** turn left for the beginning of the Tunnel of Love. It starts a bit steep and technical but this section is short. The rest is a fun downhill through the Manzanita. Just as you reach the bottom the trail makes a sharp left and then curves to the right and travels a short winding way. It dead-ends into a jeep trail. Turn left and follow this road. Take the first right cutoff up a short steep climb and at the top turn right again on to another dirt road. Follow this to a Y and veer right. This will lead you to **Apple Canyon Rd**.

Apple Canyon Rd: Turn right on to **Apple Canyon Rd.** and travel under a mile to the next right. This is the next dirt road past the Ronald McDonald Camp for the Good Times and borders the east side of Hurkey Creek Park.

Hurkey Creek Park Service Rd: This dirt road travels straight at first, then makes a left and then makes its way to the bottom of the last Climb. "**The Demoralizer**" is a steep climb but fairly short. At the top cruise down the other side and watch for a trail to your left. This is the way you started the course. From here head back to the finish!