



experience shared.

CAL SUNDAY RIDE

Sunday, September 2, 2007

Destination: Annual Two-Pass Ride to Tuolumne Meadows

Departure: 7:00am

Dear Riding Friends,

September 2 will be our 500 mile Two Pass Ride! This is our longest ride of the year; it starts early and ends late! We will get back at the shop around 9:00 or so and the last 90 miles are the hardest. Our route is simple – we go over Sonora Pass, south on 395 to Lee Vining for lunch, and back over Tioga Pass. Total mileage is about 530 miles, more or less depending on whether you take any side trips, such as to Twin Lakes or Bodie. **We will start out at a little after 7:00 am** and pick up people along the way. We will regroup at our first gas stop in Jamestown if someone gets separated. We will pause for about 20 minutes in Jamestown for a little rest and a chance to get something to drink.

We will try to keep everyone together until the Jamestown gas stop, and more or less together all the way to the store at Dardanelle, on Sonora Pass. The weather will be perfect - not too hot, not too cold, and almost surely sunny. After Jamestown the road gets interesting, and we should have light traffic from Sonora through Strawberry all the way to Dardanelle. The last ten miles to Dardanelle are among the nicest in the Sierras, and we will have great corners leading to the turn-out to the Dardanelle rest stop and food store.

We will take about a 30 minute rest stop at Dardanelle, buy snacks at the little store and relax before heading up to the top of the pass. It is only about another fifteen miles to the summit, and we will stop there for pictures and a quick break to rest the throttle hand before heading down the east side of the pass to Bridgeport. Some of the best views are seen on the south side of the pass - Leavitt Peak, Sardine Falls, the entrance to the Leavitt Lake trail, and then the West Walker River Valley opens up onto 395, which takes us in to Bridgeport. There are terrific views of the Matterhorn Range to the west as you approach ride into Bridgeport. There is heavy enforcement over the Labor Day Weekend, so try not to get traffic tickets. We will all stop at the Bridgeport gas station as you come into town, gas up and regroup.

In Bridgeport we'll take a short detour up to Twin Lakes for spectacular mountain views, all street riding, and I'll indicate the Aurora Canyon Road route for any adventuresome GS'ers who want to ride into Bodie via the back way (all dirt) and out the Bodie-Masonic Road (also dirt).

We'll stop in Lee Vining, for a late lunch and pie at Nicely's Restaurant. We always make that our destination stop, because the food is good, and they are not upset at accommodating 15 or 20 hungry bikers at one time. I always finish my meal with deep-dish peach pie and vanilla ice cream, but instead of a nap, we'll gather the group for a charge up Tioga Pass to Tuolumne Meadow.

We'll stop in the parking lot at the foot of Lembert Dome, the big granite knob just to the north of the road going into Tuolumne meadows, at the bridge over the river. I make a point of mentioning this, so that you can climb it, too, if you want to. I usually do, and bring sneakers and shorts with me just for this purpose. We friction climb right up the front of the dome, eschewing the trail that runs around behind it,

and usually make it to the top in about half an hour. After enjoying the views of Cathedral Peak, Unicorn, Hoffman, Mt. Conness, etc. we'll head back down in about 15 minutes. By this time it will be about 4:30 pm and we still have a lot of miles to go. We will stop again briefly at Olmstead Point, for views of Cloud's Rest and Half Dome in the evening sun.

Our next major stop will be in Oakdale, at the Shell station for Starbucks double shots and junk food to get us the rest of the way home. It should be just starting to cool off and be pleasant for crossing the Central Valley.

Total mileage will be about 530, time on the road about 12 - 14 hours, probably about 11 of them actually riding, the rest spent eating, climbing, etc.

This remains one of my most favorite and popular rides, and if you did not make it last year, I hope you can join us in 2007! [E-mail](#) or call me (650.966.1183) if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,
Kari Prager