

39/57 and 62/80 Mile Ride Descriptions

The 39/57 mile and the 62/88 are the same except the 39 and 62 routes begins in Huntersville, eliminating the out and back portion of the 57 and 80 mile routes. There is a large parking area where Route 28 intersects Route 39 in Huntersville.

Starting from the campground, the ride heads toward Huntersville, and though it is overall downhill, there are a few short hills to climb.

39 and 62 Descriptions begin here.

After reaching Huntersville, it is a fairly flat cruise into Marlinton on Rt. 39. After riding through downtown Marlinton, you take a left at the end of the bridge over the Greenbrier River at the light onto Rt. 219. Just a fifth of a mile brings you to the right turn onto Jericho Road. You start to climb almost as soon as you turn onto Jericho and it gradually gets steeper until it tops out past the old quarry at a well kept farm. Another descent, climb and descent brings you to Hamlin Chapel. After passing the log structure, you veer left and climb up to county route 17 (Woodrow Road). You take a right to head to 219 and Edray (Century riders go left here.)

A descent takes you past the Edray Fish Hatchery, before climbing up to the Kwik Stop at the Route 219 intersection. This is the last place to replenish your water supply for the next 17 miles. The Edray area has some beautiful farms. After turning left on 219, you take the next right past the church onto Rt. 1, Back Mountain Road.

From end to end, Back Mountain Road may be the best cycling road in West Virginia. Plenty of elevation change to give your legs a workout and just great scenery and vistas to justify taking a break to really enjoy it all. It is a rural road with very low traffic density. Some challenging shorter climbs rewarded with some nice descents yet plenty of flatter rolling sections. The road surface is in good to excellent shape the whole length.

Starting from Edray, the road is undulating with several short climbs with shorter

descents, but overall climbing to the highpoint of the ride at 2,875 feet before dropping around The Loop, one of the scenic highlights of the ride. A descent and short climb brings you to Wood Poage Chapel, before a pleasant long descent into the valley of Clover Creek. Be careful on the descent and control your speed in case you meet oncoming traffic. The valley is another scenic highlight. the farm house across the valley is something to see.

At the end of the valley is downtown Clover Lick. This is where the 39/57 and 62/80 miles rides separate. The 62/80 miles ride turns left, and continues to follow Back Mt. Road toward Cass. (The 62/80 mile ride description follows the end of the 39/57 mile description.)

The 39/57 mile ride continues straight at the intersection. After crossing the Greenbrier River, you begin to climb out from the Greenbrier River along Laurel Run. The climb has some real short steep sections, but overall is a fairly easy climb before a short descent down to the intersection (STOP SIGN) with Rt. 28. Turning right on Rt. 28 soon brings you to Seneca State Forest. After passing the entrance to the campground, you will see a picnic shelter come up on the left. Just past the shelter is a water pump located about 50 yards off the highway. A good place to top off you water bottles for the cruise into Huntersville. Compared to what you have just ridden, route 28 is a breeze. Basically gently downhill most of the way to Rt. 39 (finish of the 39 mile ride). A couple moderate climbs to keep you honest, but you can make good time or just take it easy going back to Huntersville. From Huntersville, the 57 mile riders have another 500 feet of climbing back to the campground.

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While the 39/57 milers have an easy climb away from the Greenbrier River, the 62/80 mile riders have their two most difficult climbs of the ride in the next eight miles before matching the high altitude of the climb again at 2,875 feet. After the first climb, you have a nice downhill with a sharp & turn at Alexander Church while descending to Stoney Bottom. From Stoney Bottom you have a 1.2 mile climb which is mostly 5-6 % but some 8% in the middle. A couple rollers brings you to Rt. 66. After taking the right onto Rt. 66 and the steep descent into Cass, you follow 66 through Cass to Rt. 92. There are a couple place to eat along this stretch. One is at the end of the bridge in Cass and the other is Meck's Bakery out toward 92. There is a shortcut over to 92 up behind Meck's. There is a short stretch went you cross the closed bridge and basically turns to dirt for 100 yards or so.

After reaching route 92, you turn left and head to Greenbank. The next few miles are basically flat. The Marathon store in Greenbank is a good place to get water, grab a banana or some other snacks. This is the

last place to get water till Seneca State Forest.

In Greenbank you turn right onto Rt. 28/5 Wesley Chapel Road at the Greenbank Post Office. This gets you back on the rural roads again and the next few miles are though a valley with more farms. There are some rollers here but it is pretty good cruising. After passing Wesley Chapel you have a short climb past Rochefeller's place and a short downhill and cruise out to Rt. 92. Turning right on Rt. 92, it is a flat ride to Dunmore where you take a left onto route 28. The store at this location is now closed.

Heading down Rt. 28 offers great cruising as you enjoy what is a relative flat, overall down grade run into Huntersville with only a couple moderate climbs to keep your legs honest. There is an opportunity to fill up your water bottle at the hand pump in the picnic area of Seneca State Forest. Look for the picnic shelter on the left. The hand pump is about 50 yards off the highway.

When you hit route 39 (finish for the 62 milers), the 80 milers make a left to Huntersville and then a right to head back to the park and campground. From Huntersville, you have about 500 more feet of climbing back to the campground.