

THE IDYLLWILD SPRING CHALLENGE - 2007

27+ Mile Course Description as of 4/2

PROS

SEMI PROS

EXPERT MEN 49 & UNDER

OPEN SPORT MEN

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 right and head up the Fire Rd past the water tank and then drop down "**The Demoralizer**" and continue on the dirt road bordering Hurkey Creek Park (where our Start/Finish has been located in the past) until it reaches **Apple Canyon Rd.** Here you have a section of paved road before you make a left turn onto the first dirt road past the Ronald McDonald Camp for Good Times. At this point you are basically going backwards on the well known 24 Hrs of Adrenalin Course. See the map on how to navigate this section until you meet the first real climb, "**The Tunnel of Love**". This trail will end with a short hike-a-bike and have a quick descent to "**Rage thru the Sage**". After cruising this section you will drop down towards **Hurkey Creek** on a hill that has many names with "**The 20 Minute Climb**" being the most popular, even though you will be descending it this time. At the bottom you will cross over **Hurkey Creek** and continue left and downhill on the "**Coyote Fire Rd**". At the bottom of this fast descent you will make a right turn on to the "**Keen Camp Climb**" trail. Take caution when you enter this trail because there may be some racers merging with you.

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. There has been much Forest Service fire abatement work done here so it will be a bit more open than before. This will be the first K/QOM prime for the Pros worth \$25.

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.

Bonita Vista Trail: After turning off of **May Valley Road**, go 50 yards or so and look for the trailhead on the right. It starts over some broken bark. New for 2007, 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: Make a sharp right turn. Take caution again as there is a possibility of merging traffic. This trail is a great sweeping gradual downhill and ends at an old fire road.

Coldwater Creek Trail: Crossing over the fire road, you'll find the trailhead just to the left of an old water tank. Shade becomes more abundant as you descend down towards Coldwater Creek on this fun single track. After crossing this small creek you'll start climbing out with some sections of hike-a-bike. At the top you will see a steep dirt road ahead. This short climb will pay off with a descent on the other side.

Heli-Pad Road: Turn right on to the pavement for a short distance and look for the first fire road that drops off to the right. Take this for a fast downhill ride to the beginning of the next trail "**Lower Southridge**" on your left. If you reach a gate you have gone too far.

Lower Southridge Trail: This climb is the cyclocross of mountain biking. At a junction about 1/3 up on the trail keep right on the main trail. This is the second K/QOM with a \$50. prime at the top for the Pros.

2nd Feed Station: Turn left at the top of the trail on to **May Valley Fire Rd.** During the race you will approach the second Feed Station

May Valley Fire Rd: Continue up **May Valley Fire Rd.** You will climb all the way to the top (past the turnout for previous years "Satin's Gut Trail") until you are facing north on a slight descent. Off to your left will be an open area large enough to park several cars with boulders lined up at the far end and a wood barrier leaning on them that has reflectors on it.

Connector Trail: Turn left off of **May Valley Rd.** and go through these boulders. You will see a road cut into the side of the hill sweeping up to the left. Follow this and stay on the trail. It is an open area that will drop down and then up a small climb. When it evens out you will take a sweeping right and enjoy a fun, fast and winding short trail back down to the **Nf-5s21 Fire Rd**

Nf-5s21 Fire Rd: Turn left off of the "**Connector Trail**" on to the **Nf-5s21 Fire Rd.** This is a fast descent down to **Saunder's Meadow Rd.** so watch your speed. During the race you will cross directly over **Saunder's Meadow Rd.** on to the southwest edge of the **Astro Camp** property.

Astro Camp: Since this is private property you cannot ride it as this time. Please respect the privacy of these grounds so that we may work with the camp in the future. Because of them we can eliminate more paved road. For now, turn right on to **Saunder's Meadow Rd.** and ride a short distance (less than a mile) until you get to **Pine Ave.** on the right. To the left is the end of the **Astro Camp** trail where you will once again cross **Saunder's Meadow Rd.** during the race.

Pine Ave: From **Saunder's Meadow Rd.** (on your pre-ride) turn right on to **Pine Ave.** This is a short but very steep paved road. At the top where it ends turn right.

Tahquitz View Dr: Your right turn from **Pine Ave.** will put you on **Tahquitz View Dr.** Continue on this for a short bit and it will turn to dirt. This is where your final Feed Station will be located.

Southridge Fire Rd. (Nf-5s11): Watch for the first right hand turn off of dirt **Tahquitz View Dr.** This will be **Southridge Fire Rd.**, the King of all climbs and the last big one for the race. This fire road is a little less than 1.5 miles and is worth an extra \$100. at the top if you take the 3rd and last K/QOM. And don't say we didn't warn you, this baby is steeeeeep! Stay on the main road and do not turn off. At the top you will see the large boulder we call 'the cherry on top'.

Mid Southridge Trail: Going around 'the cherry on top' you will see the entrance to the **Mid Southridge Trail.** All the pain you went through on the last climb will be made up for when you descend this incredibly fun single track.

Snakeskin Trail: Turn left at the end of **Mid Southridge Trail.** (the trail stops at an old jeep trail) to start the **Snakeskin Trail.** The beginning of the trail splits at the top. Take the left trail 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. 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 sharp 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. As soon as you hit **Bonita Vista Fire Rd.** make a sharp left onto an old jeep trail. Ride a couple hundred yards while keeping a sharp eye out for a trail that cuts off to the right. This is **Tres Hombres, Dos**.

Tres Hombres, Dos: A quick climb on to this trail leads you to a really fun ride. Enjoy!

Tres Hombres, Tres: When you come off of **Tres Hombres, Dos** you will once again be on the **Bonita Vista Fire Rd.** Keep left and in less than 50 yards to the left look for a tree off to the side that has an old yellow metal Forest Service tag on it. This is the beginning of **Tres Hombres, Tres**. Another fun trail a little shorter than it's last brother but equally as fun. In the end it will turn right on to a jeep trail and come out around an old fence to the **Bonita Fire Rd.** once more.

Bonita Vista Fire Rd: Head left and continue on until you cross over **Hurkey Creek**. Keep going on a slight incline and just before the road starts sweeping to the left look ahead to see the start of another trail on the right side of the road. This is "**The Missing Link Trail**".

The Missing Link Trail: This is the trail still in debate with the Forest Service. If it is not given the green light we'll have to reroute the course and have you turn right off of the last brother and ride the **Bonita Vista Fire Rd.** back to **May valley Fire Rd.** and continue the old course from there. Fingers crossed, this will not be necessary. **The missing Link** is a fun ride, tight in sections, which brings you back to the start of "**Rage thru the Sage**" with a left turn at the end.

Rage thru the Sage: Turning left will get you back on this trail. Finish off the course in the opposite way you began from this point.

Don't forget, this time you'll have to go UP the "**Demoralizer**" at the end!