

## TRAIL DESCRIPTION – 50 MILE

**PIONEER PARK TO HARMONY RIDGE MARKET:** We will leave from Pioneer Park, go up Nevada Street and take a brief road ride on Hwy. 20. After a couple of miles there will be a ditch trail on the right after Steep hill Road. This is referred to on the map as the Snow Mtn. Ditch. We will take the single track until it hits Willow Valley Road. At Willow Valley Road we will take another brief road ride up Willow Valley Road until it hits Hwy. 20. At this point there is a trail right before hwy. 20 on the right side. This is where we will pick up the bottom half of the Pioneer Trail. Take this single-track trail up until you hit the pavement at Scotts Flat Rd. Cross the highway from Scotts Flat Rd. and go to Harmony Ridge Market. This is where the official Lower Pioneer Trail starts.

**LOWER AND UPPER PIONEER TRAIL:** Once at the Harmony Ridge Market, we will pick up the Lower Pioneer Trail. Ride east on the Pioneer Trail, which runs parallel to Hwy. 20 on the north side. The trail is single-track riding with a moderate climb in the eastbound direction. It is marked with small diamond plaques on trees. After the 10 miles, the Lower Pioneer Trail will run into Hwy. 20. At this point, cross Hwy. 20 and start the Upper Pioneer Trail. This section of the trail parallels Hwy. 20 to the south side and drifts farther from the highway than the lower section. Ride the Upper Pioneer Trail until you pass Skillman Campground.

**IMPORTANT! AFTER SKILLMAN CAMPGROUND, THERE WILL BE A MARKER TELLING YOU WHERE TO TURN OFF AND CROSS THE HIGHWAY TO PICK UP THE DIRT ROAD THAT GOES DOWN TO WASHINGTON.** Look for the Omega Road sign and go down that road and be certain to keep **left** at the first intersection onto Alpha Road and continue descending approximately 6 miles to the town of Washington. Once in the town of Washington, make a right on paved road. Cross bridge over river and go left to stay on Washington road. Go straight up the hill and turn left on Relief Hill Rd. Take Relief Hill Road until you come to a Y and stay to the left. Follow the signs for the South Yuba River Trailhead. This is where we will have our lunch stop. **The 45 mile riders will return to Pioneer Park, while the 50 mile riders will continue on to:**

**SOUTH YUBA RIVER TRAIL:** This is the most exciting and hardest part of the ride. South Yuba River Trail parallels the South Yuba River for 17 miles to Edwards Crossing. **A FEW WORDS OF WARNING: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TRAILS THAT TAKE YOU DOWN TO THE RIVER PROVIDING ACCESS TO SWIMMING HOLES. IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE ONE OF THESE DOWN, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT QUITE A FEW PEOPLE DIE EVERY YEAR SWIMMING IN THE SOUTH YUBA RIVER BECAUSE THE WATER IS MOSTLY SNOW MELT. PLEASE BE CAREFUL, THE WATER IS EXTREMELY COLD AND NOT SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.** Also beware that there is poison oak on this trail. I would advise that you buy the pre-poison oak preventative lotions that you can put on before a ride and scrub yourself with Tech-Nu after the ride. Approximately halfway down the South Yuba River Trail you will cross the Missouri Bar Trail. Do not go up the Missouri Bar Trail. Continue heading down stream on the South Yuba River Trail. Approximately 3 miles after the Missouri Bar Trail you will reach Primitive Camp. Things tend to get a little confusing near the camp with all of the side trails. Just keep heading down stream. The trail is also washed out in a couple of spots, so you will have to carry your bike for a short distance. Once you cross over Humbug Creek, there is a nice picnic area. The trail splits here. For this ride continue downstream. **DO NOT TAKE THE HUMBUG TRAIL.** The South Yuba River Trail will continue downstream and serpentine through a rugged canyon. After a few miles the trail will pop you out in a parking area. Go out to the dirt road (North Bloomfield Rd.). Make a left on North Bloomfield Rd. down to Edward's Crossing.

**EDWARD'S CROSSING – BACK TO TOWN:** We have now finished the hardest part of the ride and need to get home! There will be another rest stop after the South Yuba River Trail and then we will have a paved ride back to town. Continue on North Bloomfield Rd. out of Edward's Crossing. After approximately 6 ½ miles, turn left on Coyote Street. This is a paved road that will take you down to Hwy. 49. Cross Hwy. 49 and proceed into downtown Nevada City until you reach Broad Street. Make a left on Broad St. over the highway overpass. This will put you onto Boulder Street. Once you have crossed over the bridge and are on Boulder Street, go approximately a block to Park Street and back to Pioneer Park.

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU FINISHED!**

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**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU FINISHED!**