

THE IDYLLWILD SPRING CHALLENGE - 2013

18 Mile Course Description

CATEGORY 2 MEN

CATEGORY 2 WOMEN

OPEN WOMEN SINGLE SPEED

TANDEMS

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

(A) 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 creek then ride straight over a dirt road **(B)** to the beginning of the "**Keen Camp Climb**" single track.

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. At the top you will connect to a dirt road. **(C)** Continue straight down the hill and look for your next single track ahead.

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.

(D) May Valley 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 Rd**.

(E) May Valley 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 and you will climb for a little under a mile. Once the road levels off a bit and you pass the large metal gate (which may or may not be there as it was ripped out last year) look for the first turnout to the left with a dead log on the corner.

(F) 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. 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 dirt road by an abandoned water tank.

Forest Service Rd. 3E02: 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. **(G)**

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.

(H) 2nd Feed Station: Turn left at the top of the trail on to **May Valley Rd.** and during the race you will approach the second Feed Station. Here is the next junction where 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'.

(I) 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).

(J) Tres Hombres, Uno: Head into this straight from the **Cahuilla Cutoff Trail**. 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.

(K) Coffee Pot Trail: Exiting **Tres Hombres Uno** you will cross directly over a dirt road and head straight into the **Coffee Pot Trail**. It is a short semi-technical trail that leads into the **Exfoliator Trail** (now in temporary closure) where you will turn right (new for 2012) and hook back into **May Valley Rd** where the 1st Feed Station is.

May Valley Rd: Connecting once again to **May Valley Rd.** turn left and head back the same way you started the course: **May Valley Rd, Johnson Meadow, Recovery Trail, Keen Camp Trail** and back over the bridge to the **County Park Trail** and the Finish Line in the Expo area.