

THE IDYLLWILD SPRING CHALLENGE - 2013

27 Mile Course Description

ALL PROS

CATEGORY 1 MEN 19 – 49

CATEGORY 1 SINGLE SPEED

OPEN LONG COURSE CLASSES

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 and the location of the 1st PRO Q/KOM. 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. The top of this trail is the 2nd PRO Q/KOM.

(H) 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 at this point.

May Valley Rd: Continue up **May Valley Rd.** You will climb all the way to the top 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.

(I) Sunset 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 **May Valley Rd.**

May Valley Rd: Turn left off of the **Sunset Trail** on to **May Valley 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 the southwest edge of the **Astro Camp** property. Prepare for an extremely sharp right turn on gravel after you pass over the road.

Astro Camp: Since this is private property you cannot ride it during a pre-ride. 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.

(J) Southridge Rd. (Nf-5511): Watch for the first right hand turn off of dirt **Tahquitz View Dr.** This will be **Southridge 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 PRO K/QOM. And don't say we didn't warn you, this baby is steeeeeep! When you are almost to the top you will see another dirt road turn off to the right. Pass this and continue straight. At the top you will see the large boulder we call 'the cherry on top'.

(K) 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 worth it when you descend this incredibly fun single track.

(L) Snakeskin Trail: Turn left at the end of **Mid Southridge Trail** (the trail stops at an old jeep road) to start the **Snakeskin Trail.** You will be carrying a lot of speed here before the turn so be careful. The beginning of **Snakeskin** 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'.

(M) 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).

(N) 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.

(O) Bonita Vista Rd: (not to be confused with the Bonita Vista Trail): **Tres Hombres, Uno** feeds into this. As soon as you hit **Bonita Vista Rd.** make a sharp **left** onto an old jeep trail / single track. 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. Ignore the right turn off near the beginning. Enjoy!

(P) Tres Hombres, Tres: When you come off of **Tres Hombres, Dos** you will once again be on the **Bonita Vista 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 Vista Rd.** once more.

Bonita Vista Rd: Head **right** and up the road at a slight climb. Once you start descending go about 100 ft. and start looking for a trail on your **left**. Total distance on **Bonita Vista Rd** before you hit the next trail, **The Grind Stone Trail**, is only about .2 miles (that's point two, not two!). It is very easy to miss the entrance to this trail so be careful! If you find yourself at the junction of **Tres Hombres, Dos** and **Tres Hombres, Tres** you have gone too far!

(Q) The Grind Stone Trail: Added in 2011, this trail just adds to the amazing single track the course already has.

(R) Bonita Vista Rd: Yes, back to this road again. And it will probably look familiar because as you exit **The Grind Stone Trail** you will see the end of **Tres Hombres, Dos** on the other side of the road. Turn **left** and continue up the road.

(S) Coffee Pot Trail: As you head up **Bonita Vista Rd.** a bit look for a single track on your **left** that goes over some small rocks. This is 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 (you have missed the beginning of the **Coffee Pot Trail** if you come to the section where **Tres Hombres, Uno** comes out onto **Bonita Vista Rd**).

May Valley Rd: Once you connect 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.