



A general guide to this Inaugural Adventure

Oct 22nd 2016

How the Wrath came to be...

As most of you know we launched The Rock Cobbler 3 years ago with 40 people. It was crazy fun and it grew. For us it was a humbling site to see 300 riders smashing all over our local area in 2016. After a rather libation ridden luncheon at the Delano Slav Hall, discussions ensued of a route that the VBZ boys ride from Bako to the ranch. We originally wanted to do a "dirt road race" in the area and that quickly transpired into a bigger loop which became GOW. From there, stupidly un-obtainable routes were tossed around with some of us settling on this almost stupidly hard route. It's as simple as that. And as it should be. For we feel true "Gravel" needs to start with a route and ride that delivers what its name conjures up in your brain.

Personally, if I may, my grandmother came to Bakersfield in the 1932 with .10 in her pocket and two young daughters. My grandfather ran off. Life was hard. Thousands of folks headed west in those days in search of work and the Dust Bowl migration to California and other points west was on. So, when I read the Grapes of Wrath or think of my grandmother or the stories I heard Buck Owens tell of his childhood or countless other tales of those who toiled in fields or anywhere they could find work I think: THOSE ARE HARD SOULS. And so we deliver a route and an event where you can look into your hard soul. We certainly know that you paid to play but you also certainly will EARN.

Let us say, first and foremost we want you to enjoy the challenge. Our goofy humor is just that, goofy. We know you get it. Or we hope you do? Now, go ride and thanks again for coming to the GOW! HAVE FUN

Sam Ames
Sambarn Promotions
Wrather crew

Read this, look at the pictures. It's all pretty cut and dry info in a very random order:

Raffle tickets

So all riders have a chance at raffle stuff, **We have auto-entered your names 2 times.** All raffle items will be placed on a table at the S/F venue for you to see Sat before we depart. We will draw names and tape them to the prize. And if you won, whether you finish or not, come check at the end of your ride and see if you won!

Number pinning!—there are no pins!

As much as we like cool numbers pinned on the back we are doing number plates. Three twist ties, get it on and if you do it upside down I swear you will be heckled to no end...



Directions

For those wanting to pickup their packet on Friday who are staying in Delano or close by:

Magoo's Pizza in Delano—2240 Girard St Suite B 93215. They have a cool little bar and good pizza. We will be there from 7-9pm.

For those in Bako or points close by, you can pickup your number and packet at 5AM at the VENUE...not Magoo's!!!! PLEASE be on time. We are a small group but we want to stay on schedule!!

To get to the main venue/start and finish area:

Exit Hwy 99 in Delano at County Line Rd. Turn left/north onto Rd. 144. (On the north side of County Line Rd its Rd 144, on the south side its Girard St. FYI). Proceed north on Rd. 144 for 2.5ish miles to Ave 24. Turn right/east on Ave 24 for approx 10 miles. GO STRAIGHT ACROSS Richgrove Rd/Famoso P. Ville Hwy. INTO THE DIRT to the Venue. There will be signs guiding you in. Its about a 15 minute drive from the hotel/County Line Rd. exit to the venue.

PLEASE USE THE DIRECTIONS. If you are looking at the route map yes, there are other ways to come in to the venue but the above is the most straightforward and easiest. Trust us, it looks easy on a map but when its dark, cold and your waking up you don't wanna get lost on farm roads. We tried to make it a straight shoot in and very easy!

Schedule

- Light breakfast of fantastic breakfast burritos, fruit and Covenant Coffee 5am to 6am..EAT——MANDATORY Rider meeting 6am. LISTEN UP! GET YOUR STUFF DONE AND BE STANDING, READY TO ROLL AT 6am....arm warmers, embro, tires aired up, etc, etc.
- 6:30 am, roll out—TIMER starts but neutral roll out for about 33 miles, riders must stay behind lead riders.
- After the first SAG, the neutral zone is done so get it on when you are ready
- Follow the stickers on the road, signs, arrows and orange cones, read signs....look for cones and signs and arrows stuck to the road for 7-10 hours
- Cutoff...you have until 1:30pm to get to SAG 3 at Shirley Meadows. If you don't make it there by then (that's a full 7 hours to do 89 miles) you are DONE and we reserve the right to sag you in....don't hate us.
- Fun, beer and a large amount of food at the grape vineyards where you started awaits!
- Collect your finisher prize!—Top male and female finisher awards
- Go home and drive safely! Or, stay as long as you like. Got a room? Use it! Need a room or ride? Line it up!

Riding etiquette and rules of the road and SAFETY

Hey! This route is not overly technical with descents. Save for the drop from Alta Sierra to Woody on the road.... This ain't a pro race, the road ain't closed and you ain't cool if you do stupid stuff. DANGER, DANGER! DO NOT CROSS THE CENTERLINE AT ANY TIME EVER. Single file or 2 x 2 max please on the road sections.

USE EXTREME CAUTION on all road crossings, look both ways and be SAFE!

THE PAVED ROAD DESCENT OFF Alta Sierra/Hwy 155 can be DANGEROUS!! STAY TO THE FAR RIGHT AT ALL TIMES, BLIND CORNERS, LOOSE DIRT AND SAND! WE DON'T CARE HOW LONG YOU HAVE BEEN RIDING OR HOW GOOD YOU ARE. HEED OUR WARNING. Thank you!



Course marking material/What to look for

The course is marked with stick down pink arrows, painted arrows on all road sections with some sign arrows and large A frame signs and volunteers where needed. Look for them, heads up and always looking. Things will spread out and when there is not a line of riders, be looking!

**When we use cones, CONNECT THE CONES LIKE A BREADCRUMB TRAIL!
THE CONES should ALWAYS BE ON YOUR RIGHT...**

CONNECT THE DOTS...CONE TO CONE. CONE TO SIGN....EASY!

LOOK FOR STICKERS/PAINT ON THE ROAD, SIGNS AND CONES AT ALL TIMES

This is a **MASSIVE** and **HARD** ride. It will take most of you over 7-10 hours. It will get dark around 5:45pm. If you make it to the SAG at the top of Alta Sierra and continue by 2pm great! If you feel you will need a light, plan on it and strap it on!

Requirements

- STOP! at STOP! Signs. Do not run STOP! Signs. You can get a ticket, DQ'd, hurt or killed. You know this....we have a couple signals. We cannot and will not tell you to run them. Per traffic control/police you may proceed with caution as if it were a stop sign if they do not trigger. You have been advised.
- Be courteous to other land and trail users. SAY THANK YOU, PLEASE, YES SIR AND YES MA'AM.
- WATCH FOR CATTLE AND HORSES ANYWHERE! NO, REALLY....
- DO NOT THROW YOUR BOTTLES OR ANY TRASH ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

Aid Stations

- Your salvation and very generous volunteers. There are 4 SAG stops and "roving" SAG coming down from the top of Alta Sierra on Rancheria. This climb can take some of you 4 hours. We will be well stocked. Stock up with 2 bottles AT ALL TIMES! Eat, gel out and fuel. Hydration mix from **FLUID**, **Bonk Breaker Bars**, fruit and lots of other good stuff.
- If you drop clothing at ANY aid station it will come back to the start/finish at some point! PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR STUFF like your mama did for your in 1st grade!



Clothing/Gear

- We recommend lights for all riders. Not mandatory but we be rolling out before sunrise. And some of you may need it at the end if you think you will be over 11hours.
- We will see what the weather does. If it goes cool that WILL mean COLD at the top of Alta Sierra. Maybe don't drop vests and such early, you may need them.
- If you determine at the start you want a bag of gear to be taken to the top of Alta Sierra we will have index cards and bags for you at the start to send with that SAG team and they will have it for you.
- Tires and bikes...we have hashed this but we feel 34/32 low gearing and tire choice can be from a 28mm gravel road slick to 34mm file tread. There is sand on Rancheria that can be challenging and on the run in to town from Richgrove. But, not ride ending, walking for miles, cussing us bad sand. And then there is tons of road. We have ridden the entire route on 30mm tires and not walked. Go with what you feel is best for your ability and to enjoy the adventure!
- On the tire setup, tubeless is ideal, we like Orange Seal....and if you are running tubes do a removable core tube and add a quality sealant. Thorns are present.
- YOU MUST CARRY TUBES, CO2, ETC AND BE ABLE TO FIX YOUR BIKE. A CHAIN TOOL, MULTI-TOOL ETC! Do not expect mechanical help. We certainly want you to finish and not have a broken bike to be the cause but one of the codes of gravel (more on that soon) is self-sustained no outside support.
- Cell phones....yes, please fully charged and turn off all your apps and save your battery. We have good coverage except for most of Rancheria. We will provide you with a laminated card to carry with you with mobile numbers for SAG personnel both at SAG stops and roving if you need help.

AND A FINAL NOTE ON THE ROUTE....

- **As stated in the email when the route was sent to you, the first 34ish miles are NEUTRAL. We have to cross like 30 ranches and lots of terrain and a couple of signals so it is NOT marked. The pace will be very manageable. HOWEVER, we have riders who know the route leading you AND bringing up the rear, no one will be left behind or get lost! Marking/signs/arrows start at SAG #1 which will be at Pegasus Drive. We are a small group, we would ask that if someone flats or has an issue during the neutral lets wait and be cool. If you have an issue, shout it out!**



And Finally.....Above all...HAVE FUN!

Here is our chant, memorize it. If you hear "To the Wrath..." You reply:

*"To the Wrath! To the Wrath I came, no worry
no shame. Dead she will make me, so in the
grapes please lay me."*

A very special thanks to:

All Sambarn staff and volunteers

VBZ Table Grapes



Sign Solutions of Bakersfield

Lengthwise Brewing Co.

Bonk Breaker Nutrition

JSAG Packaging

FLUID Hydration

Design Mark and Associates

Action Sports of Bakersfield

Covenant Coffee

MAXCO Packaging