

THE IDYLLWILD SPRING CHALLENGE - 2007

19+ Mile Course Description

EXPERT MEN 50+
EXPERT WOMEN
SPORT MEN
OPEN SPORT WOMEN
TANDEMS

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.

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: Continue on **May Valley Rd.** Shortly after the feed station you will come to a Y. Veer to the left and continue on.

Mirkwood Trail: Look for a trail off to the left side of the road a small ways from the Y. A couple hundred yards in during the race there is a possibility of merging traffic from the longer course on a connecting trail. 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.

2nd Feed Station: Turn left at the top of the trail on to **May Valley Fire 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'.

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. 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.

Bonita Vista Fire Rd: (not to be confused with the Bonita Vista Trail): **Tres Hombres, Uno** feeds into this. Make a sharp right turn and head up this dirt road.

May Valley Fire Rd: **Bonita Vista Fire Rd.** runs into **May Valley Fire Rd.** Keep to the left at the intersection and head towards the **Exfoliator Trail**.

Exfoliator Trail: This trail starts under a large Black Oak on your left. Well known on the 24 Hrs Of Adrenalin course, this is a fast downhill that will keep you on your toes. At the end it has a short quick climb to an old fire road that is a rippin' fast descent. At the bottom is a sharp left turn that takes you down to Hurkey Creek. Crossing Hurkey Creek will start you on your last major climb up the "**20 Minute Climb**" (it takes about a quarter of that, really!). At the top is the beginning of **Rage thru the Sage**.

Rage thru the Sage: Cruise down this mellow trail and finish of the race just as you began.

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