

Excel Roofing King of the Rockies

August 27, 2016

GETTING TO THE START: Leave your car at the ski area, the ride to the start is a great warm-up. Ride along the Fraser River Trail approximately 5 miles through Winter Park to Fraser. At the end of the bike path turn left at the Murdoch's Plaza onto County Road 72. Go under the railroad tracks and turn right onto the Fraser Parkway. The Fraser Parkway ends at a "T" after 0.8 miles. At the "T" turn left onto County Road 73. Go 0.8 miles on County Road 73 (past the rodeo arena) to the intersection of County Road 50-S. Turn right on County Road 50-S and go 1.0 miles to the intersection of County Road 50. The start will be at this intersection. A leisurely ride to the start will take about 40-45 minutes. You can park at Murdoch's if you want to avoid the long ride to the start. You will have to ride back to Murdoch's to pick up your vehicle after the race.

THE COURSE: From the staging area on County Road 50 ride approximately 3.5 miles to the Tipperary Creek Trail Head. Turn left and begin the climb. Pace yourself as it is a steady climb for over 3 miles. After the second stream crossing, the trail begins to level out for a short distance before reaching the top of Morse Pass. The downhill section that ensues is fast and furious, so hold on tight.

At the bottom of the pass is St. Louis Creek Road. Turn right, then immediately turn left onto Road #159, drop down, cross the creek, and then climb briefly to the Flume Trail. Turn left on the Flume and enjoy. This is one of the best single tracks in the valley. Follow this trail to a small pond where it becomes Chainsaw.

Prepare for a great experience on the Chainsaw re-route that climbs and winds gradually to connect with Zoom. At this intersection take a left and descend Zoom to a right on Elk Creek Road. Aid station will be located in this area.

Continue on Elk Creek Road to the Elk Meadow Trail two hundred yards ahead on the left. The trail starts as a double track and funnels into a single track. Cross the creek and ride on this rolling single track until it intersects with D2 road.

Turn left on D2, cross the stream, and pace yourself up a long hill. Many dead end trails intersect with D2 so stay on the main road. D2 will intersect with D2 Green on the right. Stay left and continue climbing to where D2 meets WTB Trail. Veer to your left and ride this famous local's trail that will test your endurance and technical skills due to its climbing and tight switchbacks to the intersection with D4.

Turn left on D4 and follow this double track logging road down a rocky descent to Big Vasquez Road # 148. Turn sharply to the right up Road #148 and follow it to the Vasquez Ford. Cross through the stream and ride about 200 yards to Blue Sky trail.

Turn left on Blue Sky and descend on this wide single track. At the bottom of Blue Sky, cross a bridge just before meeting the Little Vasquez trail. Turn left and then quickly right onto the Ice Hill trail. Stay on this single track until it joins the Tracks Trail next to the railroad tracks.

Continue along the Tracks Trail to Serenity and turn right. Follow Serenity to the service road that will take you back to the finish at Winter Park Resort.

Distance: 25.2 miles