



The fifth annual Sea-to-Sierra ride was GORGEOUS!! Beautiful, fun and difficult, and extremely rewarding!!

- Our new 'southern route' this year garnered kudos from riders and SAG drivers alike! I think it's a 'keeper' .... if we figure out how to adjust Day 2 such that riders aren't climbing a total of 12,000 vertical feet, 7,000 of which occur in the final 35 miles of the day ☺
- 17 riders and 4 SAG vehicles w/ exceptional SAG drivers and support! 3 of the 17 riders were 'first-timers' this year, and are already committed to riding again next year! Of course that means that 14 riders are 'repeaters'! Says something about what fun we all have!!
- No injuries and picture PERFECT weather ← a very nice change from last year's 113 degree temps!
- Every rider pays their own expenses so every dollar donated goes straight to WRS!

**Day 1 – Friday Sept 10:** Santa Rosa → Folsom. **(123 miles; ~5250' climbing):** Today's route was the same as past years, through picnic lunchtime in Winters. From there we had a delightful, flat tail-wind enabled easterly route across the valley through Davis to Sacramento, and then following along the wonderful American River bike trail into Folsom. We stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn in Folsom (very nice accommodations and GREAT showers!!). Dinner was next door at Chili's Grill & Bar. Everyone was fast asleep by ~9:00PM!



**Day 2 – Saturday Sept 11:** Folsom → Kirkwood. **(85.9 miles; 12000' climbing – but...average is 3% grade ☺):** Oh my....! Today was a BIG day for everyone! A staggered start allowed slower riders to get a head-start, while the faster riders dawdled over breakfast. The route took us uphill (!) through Cameron Park and south of Highway 50 to Placerville. PERFECT weather, a couple flat tires, and one or two 'lost riders' when they neglected to check their route sheets. But, everyone safely arrived at lunch at Jenkinson Lake outside of Pollock Pines, after ~5,000 vertical feet of climbing and 50 miles. Ahhhh, now the hard work began ☺. 35 miles remain, 7000 feet of climbing and elevations above 8000 feet. Fortunately, this segment of the ride to Kirkwood is the most amazingly beautiful (and untraveled!) part of the ride. So, wonderful scenery distracted us from the challenges of the climb! Our condo accommodations at Kirkwood were lovely (as was the hottub!). Dinner at the Kirkwood Inn & Saloon was shortly followed by falling into bed exhausted, by 10PM!



**Day 3 – Sunday Sept 12:** Kirkwood → Tahoe City. **(53.1 miles; ~3500' climbing):** After a special buffet breakfast at Kirkwood, we climbed over Carson Pass and descended into Pickett's Junction and then up and over Luther Pass. The descent into Myers was extraordinary, and then we had a quick spin into South Lake Tahoe for a relaxed sit-down lunch at Murphy's Restaurant. From SLT we used bike paths and Hwy89 up around Emerald Bay, and then on to Tahoe City to FINISH! We relaxed with a celebratory dinner in Tahoe City @ The Blue Agave Mexican Restaurant.



Altogether a grand time!

P.S. On Monday before heading back to Sonoma County, a few of us rode from Tahoe City up and over Donner Pass to Cisco Grove. Descending to Cisco Grove, we hit 48 MPH.....for about 10 miles ☺

