



Carmel Valley Ramble

Randonneurs USA Route #1678

134 kms

Maximum Time Allowance: 8h56m

Unlike many of the other events of the Santa Cruz Randonneurs, this ride is a *permanent populaire*. Being a "permanent" means it is a self-conducted ride with a date and starting time of the rider's choice, and "populaire" means it is between 100-199 kilometers in length. Permanents are sanctioned by Randonneurs USA (RUSA) and only RUSA members can sign up for a permanent ride. This ride counts toward RUSA's yearly Distance Awards and its P-12 award. If you are thinking of trying a century or 200k brevet, this ride provides good training and fine scenery.

Route Description: This out-and-back route starts and ends in Carmel Valley Village and goes south along Carmel Valley Road/G-16 to the turnaround in Greenfield. There are few turns on this ride and navigation is very easy—just follow the G-16 route signs the whole day. The main challenge to the route is the big climb that lies between Carmel Valley and Greenfield. Its gradient varies greatly, with easy slopes for long stretches, a lot of 6-8% sections, and some steep pitches around 10-12%. The road surface can be rough in places and there are several cattle guards to negotiate going up and down the mountain pass. All of the cattle guards are rideable, but caution is needed on the descents to cross them safely, especially since a couple of them are in the apex of corners.

This not a complicated route but if you want to see it on a map, a very good one is the Krebs Cycle Products "South San Francisco Bay & Monterey Bay Areas" bicycle touring map. They are available in most local bike shops or on-line. The AAA motoring organization also makes very good regional maps for its members; their detail is very useful for cycling on back roads. This routes is on the AAA's excellent "Monterey Bay" map.

Services: To buy food and drink along the route, you'll find it at the start/finish, then at the turnaround in Greenfield at mile 42. There is nothing in-between and riders will want to start with full jersey pockets and bottles, and then be sure to stock up before beginning the second half of the ride. In Greenfield, Joanna's Mexican Restaurant has fed hungry randonneurs for years on the SCR 400k and 600k brevets. Or, the 24-hour Fastrip Market at the route's u-turn on Oak Avenue will work if you want a faster stop.

Start/Finish Location: This brevet begins and ends at Kasey's Market/Shell Station at the junction of Carmel Valley Road and Del Fino Place in Carmel Valley Villiage. It is about 12 miles from there to the junction of Highway 1 and Carmel Valley Road. There are a number of other businesses nearby if you want to use their receipts as proof of passage.

Parking: If you drive to the start, there is not a lot of car parking in front of the store; please do not wear out our welcome by using the spaces normally used by store customers. Park a little distance away and cycle to the store to get your proof of passage to start your ride. If you are doing this ride on the weekend, there is easy parking at the Tularcitos Elementary School on Ford Road, not far from the start/finish.

Recommended Start Times: This route can be ridden any time of year, but summer temperatures could be very hot. Autumn, winter and spring months are probably the best times to enjoy this ride (October through November, then March through May.) Winter rarely sees freezing temperatures and icy roads won't often be a factor, but keep an eye on the mercury if there are unusually cold winter mornings. Rain can be a challenge from December through March, so watch the weather forecasts and dress appropriately. Remember, though, once you register you **must** use that start time and date. There is no entry refund for non-starts caused by poor weather, bad luck, illness, etc.

The best time of day to start this ride is probably between 7 AM and 11 AM; that way you'll find all businesses open during the ride. If you want to start before the store opens, you could buy some fuel from the store's gas pumps with your credit card and use that receipt as proof of passage. Or, there is a bank ATM machine on the side of store too.

Control Procedures: In addition to the start/finish, you will need to get proof of passage in Greenfield (a store receipt or something similar like a ATM receipt that has the town, time, and date on it.) Don't forget to take along a pen so you can write your times on your route card.

This brevet can be done as a night ride if you like. If you want to start later than the store closing time, use the gas pump receipt method or ATM for your start and finish, as described above. The control in Greenfield has a store that is open 24 hours. These roads, under a full moon, are tranquil and carry very low traffic. The main concern is the poor road surface in places; under the shadows of trees you might not spot potholes, cracks, or other hazards (fallen tree

limbs) at night. The twisty descents and cattle guards could also be a challenge in the dark—be sure you bring powerful lights.

Be aware that there may also be secret controls during this brevet, so stay on the route. If you should get lost, backtrack to where you got off-course, otherwise you might miss a secret control. Failure to sign in at a secret control means disqualification from the brevet. If there are any secret controls, they will be in plain sight and impossible to miss.

In your application, be sure to specify the start time and date you want. You must begin your ride at that time, and any secret control opening and closing times will be based upon the start time you select.

During your ride, all the normal rules of randonneuring apply. Go to the Randonneurs USA web site for the official regulations of our sport. You should also review the various other pages of the SCR web site to familiarize yourself with randonneuring if this type of cycling is new to you. Or, please don't hesitate to e-mail us with any questions you might have about this ride, or about randonneuring.

After the permanent is done, please return your brevet card and receipts to the ride organizer within 10 days. (A stamped, addressed envelope will be included in your rider packet.) Be sure and sign the correct space on the back of the brevet card for the **rider's signature** before you send it in. I'll figure out the total time, so just sign your name on the back.

Also, if you must abandon the ride, please call or e-mail when you get home. The same goes if you have to take a DNS (did not start) for whatever reason. There are RUSA insurance matters I will need to attend to.

Good luck and good riding! ☺