



FOOTHILL RAMBLE

RUSA Permanent Route #827

A Permanent Populaire of 116 kms	Time Limit: From 3 hours, 52 minutes to 7 hours, 44 minutes
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Pre-ride Information—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Unlike many of the other events of the Santa Cruz Randonneurs, this brevet is a “permanent”. Being a permanent means it is a self-conducted ride with a date and starting time of the rider’s choice. This ride is sanctioned by Randonneurs USA, and counts toward its yearly Distance Awards. In order to participate, you must be a current member of Randonneurs of USA.

Route Description: This is an out-and-back route with lots of good scenery and easy navigation. The course travels the foothills that lie between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Silicon Valley. The Foothill Ramble starts and ends in Los Gatos. Much time is spent on Foothill Expressway, Sand Hill Road, and Cañada Road. Around Crystal Springs Reservoir, the route goes up Bunker Hill Drive and into some steep hills to reach the turnaround in San Mateo. Its proximity to urban areas means there will be a few busy roads (mainly De Anza Blvd in Cupertino), but the route uses the best cycling routes used by local bicyclists and you should have an enjoyable ride.

Overall, the Foothill Ramble route is “lumpy”. There is very little difficult climbing, but there are few flat sections either. The hardest part is the steep up-and-down 2-mile section on Bunker Hill Drive before the turnaround, followed immediately by doing it again in the reverse direction as you start the return trip to Los Gatos. The gradients on this section are around 12-15%, but the rest of the climbs are much more gentle.

Weather: This ride can be done year-round, but cold winter rain or hot summer afternoons will make the ride more challenging. There are very few winter days where icy roads will be a concern, but if the mercury is below freezing, be prudent.

Start Times: You should choose a start time between 7 AM and 3 PM in order to find stores open during the ride to get receipts to prove your passage. Sunday sees the lightest traffic, and Saturday is not too bad either. If you want to ride this on a weekday, starting after 9 AM will let you enjoy better cycling after the morning commute traffic has let up. This is not a good night ride because it will be hard to find proof of passage after 8 PM in Woodside and at the turnaround.

Start/Finish Location: This brevet begins and ends at the corner of N. Santa Cruz Avenue & Los Gatos—Saratoga Boulevard (Hwy 9) in Los Gatos. There is a Chevron mini-mart/gas station* at the start/finish. You’ll need receipts from the start **and** the finish; the time imprint on each receipt is your verification or “control”. (It is okay to have store receipts which show times a few minutes off from the official start/finish times).

*If you want to use other nearby businesses instead of the Chevron, that is okay.

Parking: If you drive to the start, there is a Park & Ride lot quite near the start/finish. It is by the Hwy 17 freeway, near the junction of University Avenue & Los Gatos—Saratoga Rd (Hwy 9). The entrance to the Park & Ride lot is across the street from Hobbe’s Restaurant, 165 Los Gatos—Saratoga Rd. (Hobbe’s is a good breakfast spot before the ride too.)

Control Procedures: There are five controls on this route. In addition to using businesses near the start/finish in Los Gatos, you’ll need to stop and get proof of passage in Woodside at Robert’s Store, at the turnaround on Bunker Hill Drive, and then again at Robert’s Store in Woodside. For the turnaround control, there is a Union 76 mini-mart at the junction of Bunker Hill Dr. and Polhemus Rd. but you can go a bit farther on Polhemus and use another nearby businesses if you like.

In general, business receipts are fine for randonneuring controls, as are ATM receipts. You can ask for a store stamp at any control in lieu of a receipt, but if they do not offer one then you are expected to buy something to get a receipt. The time-stamp on the receipt is your proof of passage, and it must show the town also. Note the actual time on your brevet card and put your last name on the store receipt. (Sometimes store receipt times are little off; when you mark your brevet card, use the actual time on the brevet card.)

You can ride this permanent alone or in a group; if you are with a group that stays together the entire way, then only one receipt is need for the group at each control so long as you put everyone's name on the back of the receipt (and everyone should mark their own cards with the same time.) If the riders split up, they then need to get their own receipts. Tandem teams only need one receipt for their team, not for each rider.

Each control has an opening and closing time. To get ride credit you must stay within these times, which are based upon the starting time and date you chose.

Be aware that there may also be secret controls during this brevet, so stay on the route. If you should get lost or go looking for food, 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.

After the brevet, return your brevet card and receipts to the ride organizer. Sign the back of the card in the space for the rider and make sure all the times are recorded on the card for each control. (We'll compute your final total riding time, so leave that part blank.) Then mail your completed materials to:

Santa Cruz Randonneurs
226 West Avenue,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

You have up to ten days after the ride date to return your materials to SCR HQ. A stamped return mail envelope will be sent with your rider packet of materials so it will be easy to do. However, if you return your materials later than 10 days after the ride, your results won't be registered.

Regulations: During your ride, all the normal rules of randonneuring apply. Go to the SCR and RUSA web sites to familiarize yourself with the regulations if this type of cycling is new to you. You **must** begin your ride at the time you selected, and any secret control opening and closing times will be based upon that start time. If you are riding at night, be sure you have all the required lights and reflective safety gear outlined in the regulations; anyone found to be riding in darkness or other low-light conditions without them will be automatically disqualified.

If you should fail to start, or end the ride prematurely, please contact the ride organizer as soon as is practical. We have RUSA matters to attend to whether or not you finish the ride successfully. Please be considerate and not endanger your future participation in future SCR events or permanents by overlooking this essential requirement. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Good luck and good riding! ☺