



GONZALES RAMBLE 208 kms

RUSA Permanent Route #1286	Time Limit: 6hours, 54 minutes to 10 hours, 16 minutes
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Pre-ride Information—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Unlike the calendared brevets of the Santa Cruz Randonneurs, this ride is a “permanent.” Being a permanent means it is a self-conducted ride of 200 kms or longer with a date and starting time of the rider’s choice. This permanent route is sanctioned by Randonneurs USA, and counts toward its yearly Distance Awards, and the R-12 medal. In order to participate, you must be a current member of Randonneurs of USA.

Route Description: This out-and-back ride goes south from Santa Cruz along the Monterey Bay to Marina. From Marina it travels inland through Salinas Valley farmland to Gonzales, then retraces itself back to Santa Cruz. Overall, this is a fairly easy route that lacks any long climbs. It could be called “lumpy” for the first and last 25 miles, while the middle section is flat-to-rolling. Most of the climbs have gradients of 8% or less, while the one on Trafton Road (outbound) briefly hits 10%. We estimate that entrants will have gained about 3,300 feet of climbing by the end of the ride.

The road paving on this route ranges from fairly good to lousy. In particular, some of the farm roads between Aptos and Moss Landing are in rough shape, so skinny tires are not a good choice.

Also, at Mile 99.8 and again at Mile 105.4, you’ll need to make a left turn across busy Hwy 1 in the Moss Landing area. Please be prudent and **use caution** when making these turns. There is a good shoulder to ride on Hwy 1, but making these two turns requires patience. Please be very careful getting onto Hwy 1 at Molera Road, and again getting off Hwy 1 at Jensen Road!

Weather: This ride can be done year-round but cold winter rainstorms and strong coastal winds can make the ride challenging, so come with a determined attitude to finish. This is a good summer ride when inland regions are suffering under high temperatures (but some out-of-area riders are surprised at how cold it can be along the coast during summer with drizzle and fog.) In winter, these roads are nearly always free of ice but you should still be prudent on shady sections of the road when the mercury hovers around freezing. Overall, this route is probably best done as a winter ride; from about March through October there is usually a strong afternoon sea breeze that will likely mean headwinds from Gonzales back to Santa Cruz.

Start Times: You should choose a start time between 5 AM and 3 PM in order to find Gonzales businesses open at the turnaround to get receipts to prove your passage. This is not a good all-night ride due to the lack of services after 10 PM in Gonzales, but if you want to try it, that can be arranged. (We’ll do a postcard control in Gonzales.) There are all-night businesses in Marina and at the start/finish in Santa Cruz.

Services: The services on the route are no more than 20 miles apart and you won’t need a Camelbak to do this ride. Along with the start/finish in Santa Cruz, you’ll find stores and cafés in Aptos, Moss Landing, Marina, and Gonzales. Also, the Buena Vista Market at Mile 49 (outbound) and Mile 80 (inbound) is a cyclist-friendly establishment used by randonneurs on many SCR events.

Start/Finish Location: This brevet begins and ends at the corner of Mission Street & Miramar Avenue in western Santa Cruz. There is a 24-hour Valero convenience store 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 something different than can be had at the Valero, cross the street and use the Safeway market to get your receipts. Like the Valero, it is open 24/7.

If you drive to the start, there is on-street parking along Miramar Avenue, near the Valero or the nursery. There is also parking along Almar Street, by the Safeway.

Control Procedures: In addition to using businesses at the start/finish in Santa Cruz, you will need to get controlled in Marina (you choose the business), and in Gonzales (again, you choose the business.) Get a receipt or other proof of passage and mark your time on your brevet card in these places. If you don’t need food, an ATM receipt will also work.

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 needed for the group at each control (but everyone should mark their own cards with the time.) If the riders split up, they then need to get their own receipts. Tandem teams obviously 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 marked on the route sheet and brevet card.) These times 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.

If you are late to the start, you can still begin the ride late and try to make the second control (Marina) in time. If, however, you arrive after the Marina control is closed, then your permanent is officially over.

After the permanent is done, return your brevet card and receipts to the ride organizer. Sign the back of the card and make sure all the times are recorded on the card for each control, and in 24-hour military time format. Don't compute your overall time on the back of the card, we'll do that part. Put all the receipts and your card into a baggie and put it under the doormat at 226 West Avenue (the street behind the Valero mini-mart.)

Or, you have up to 10 days to get them to us via the US mail or some other means. If we have not received your results within 10 days, they will not be processed. Please send your rider packet to:
Santa Cruz Randonneurs, 226 West Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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 on the date you selected, and any secret control opening and closing times will be based upon that start time & date. Per RUSA regulations, there are no "rain checks" for your permanent entry if you change your mind or have trouble getting to the start.

If you are riding at night, be sure you have all the required lights and safety gear outlined in the regulations; anyone found to be riding at night without them will be automatically disqualified from this ride, and possibly from future SCR brevets and permanents. Ride smart and stay safe!

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. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Good luck and good riding! ☺