

Santa Cruz Randonneurs

MOSS BEACH RAMBLE

Permanent #23

A Permanent Brevet of 207 kms

Time Limit: 13 hours, 30 minutes

Pre-ride Information—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Unlike most 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 brevet is sanctioned by Randonneurs USA, and counts toward its Distance Awards once per year for a rider’s kilometer total. However, if you are trying to earn the RUSA R-12 medal it can be ridden multiple times. In order to participate, you must be a current member of Randonneurs of USA.

Route Description: This ride goes north from Santa Cruz along the coast highway and has lots of fine scenery. In similar fashion to our Moss Beach 200k brevet or the last third of our Surf City 600k brevet, you’ll experience great riding along the Pacific coastline, as well as in the beautiful redwood forests that lie inland around Pescadero and La Honda. Overall, this route would be called moderately hilly. There is nothing extremely difficult in terms of climbing except Haskins Hill before La Honda, and perhaps around Stage Road. There is also a fair amount of altitude gain from the numerous short climbs and the typical rider will be happy he or she brought a triple crankset along; by the end of the ride entrants will have gained over 5,000 feet of climbing. Strong riders will want a 39x27t low gear if they run a double crankset.

Weather: This ride can be done year-round, but cold winter rain storms will be tough to survive since they roll unimpeded off the Pacific Ocean. Coastal winds can also make the ride challenging any time of year, 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 cool it can be in July along the coast due to drizzle and fog. In winter, the coastal highway is free of ice, but sometimes inland roads can be icy in the morning hours so use caution. (If the morning temperature in Santa Cruz is 34 degrees or cooler, you should prudent and expect possible ice in the forests around Gazos Creek, La Honda, and Pesadero. And if the road is not actually icy, it will still be darned cold in the forests and canyon.)

Start Times: You should choose a start time between 5 AM and 10 AM in order to find stores open during the ride to get receipts to prove your passage. This is not a good night ride due to the lack of services.

Services: To buy food and drink along the route going outbound, you’ll find stores in Davenport (mile 10), Gazos Creek (mile 24), La Honda (mile 44), San Gregorio (mile 52), Half Moon Bay (mile 63) and Moss Beach, (mile 70). On the return, you find Half Moon Bay (mile 77), San Gregorio (mile 87), Pescadero (mile 94), Gazos Creek (mile 100), Davenport (mile 117), and in Santa Cruz at the finish. Most of these places open about 8 AM and close around 6-8 PM; none are open all night except in Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay. There are many state beaches and parks along the route with pit toilets that are easily accessible during the brevet.

Start/Finish Location: This brevet begins and ends at the corner of Mission & Miramar streets 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).

Control Procedures: In addition to using stores at the start/finish in Santa Cruz, and then in Moss Beach, and Pescadero, you will need to mail a postcard in La Honda. A stamped postcard will be provided with your entry. Be sure and record your time on the brevet card in each town, and of course upon the postcard in La Honda.

You can also 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. Have the clerk write the time upon your brevet card and sign it.

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 (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 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 and make sure all the times are recorded on the card for each control. Put all the receipts and your card into a baggie and put them in the mailbox at 226 West Avenue, right behind the Valero mini-mart.

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 safety gear outlined in the regulations; anyone found to be riding at night 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 detail. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Good luck and good riding! ☺