

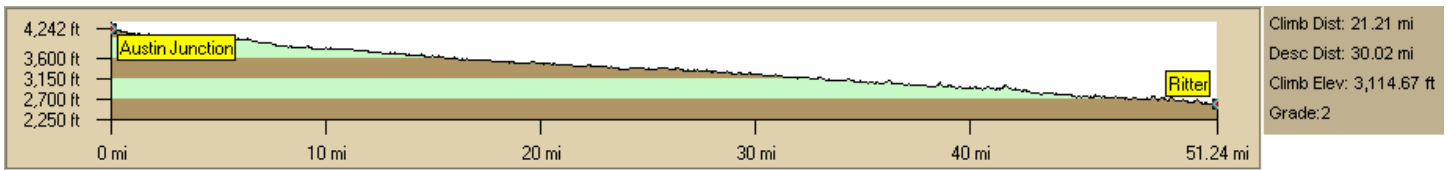
Route Name: *Austin – Ritter Ride*

Ride Number..... #11

Prairie City Bicycle Invitational

Ride Type.....Road bike or X-Bike w/road tires
Difficulty.....Technical – 2, Physical – II (scale 1–5 & I–V)
Time required.....6 – 7 hours (approximate)
Distance on paved surface.....51.24
Lowest gear ratio on test bike.....30 Rear X 39 Front
Necessary Supplies.....1st aid, extra clothing, snacks, maps & beverage

Ride Profile



Getting to "Start/Finish" Point

From Prairie City drive east on US26 15.31 miles to Austin Junction, where SR-7 (Whitney Highway) branches north off US26. At the Junction is a store/restaurant/service station facility with lots of parking area where a vehicle can be left overnight. Permission to park on the facility property overnight should be obtained from the facility operator.

General Description

Following the drainage of the Middle Fork John Day River this route is essentially downhill with no climbs of length or difficult pitch. Gliding along its course you will be continually treated to classic western wilderness scenery punctuated by points of historic note – haunting remnants of the area's now faded mining era.

The finale, Ritter Hot Springs, is one of Oregon's few remaining original gems; a best kept secret not yet having received the *extreme make-over* of "modernity".

NOTE: Participants should be prepared to provide their own transport or sag as they believe they might need from outset to return, since no guarantee can be made of sag support by volunteer groups (in which case there would be a fee rate for fund raising purpose).

Route Directions

- 1.12 miles CR 20 branches left off SR7
- 1.6 miles CR 20 (*Middle Fork Lane*) passes Austin
- 1.7 miles CR 20 90° turn left after crossing the Middle Fork John Day River
- 13.9 miles Sunshine Guard Station off to right of CR 20
- 21.3 miles CR 20 passes Galina. (*CR 20 also known as Upper Middle Fork Rd. from Galina*)
- 41.1 miles CR 20 intersects US 395.
..... *Cross US 395 to continue on SR 5 (Lower Middle Fork Rd.)*
- 50.8 miles Turn right off SR 5 onto Ritter Hot Springs Road
- 51.1 End route at Ritter Hot Springs.

This profile shows the additional mileage and elevations involved in bicycling from Prairie City to this route's start point at Austin Junction.

