

Cycling Event “Three Peaks USA” 9/25/2011 Turn-by-turn course directions

Race start and finish will be at the Banner Elk Winery and Inn at 60 Deer Run Lane, unincorporated Avery County in the Shawneehaw Fire District

NOTE: Distances are approximate.

Cyclists will proceed EAST on Deer Run Ln

<<ENTER WATAUGA COUNTY>>

RIGHT on Lee Gualtney Rd/SR-1130

LEFT Andy Hicks Rd /SR-1128 (course marshal 1) – MILE 2.6

LEFT Shawnee Rd/SR-1127 (course marshal 2) – MILE 4.5

RIGHT “Barn Rd” (course marshal 3) – MILE 6.9

LEFT at fork crossing over second cattle guard and going into trees – MILE 7.3

<<ENTER Beech Mountain Fire District>>

LEFT onto Elderberry Ridge Rd – MILE 8.4

LEFT onto Beech Mountain Parkway/NC-184 (Beech PD directing traffic) – MILE 8.8

RIGHT onto Oz “Winter” Rd (Emerald Mountain Development – private road) – MILE 8.9 (prior to race day, pass gate around right side, then chain around left side)

CAUTION – you can hit EXTREMELY high speeds descending this road

STRAIGHT through gate structure (if closed, go over concrete on left) – MILE 10.6

<<ENTER AVERY COUNTY>>

IMMEDIATE LEFT onto Backbone Trail – MILE 10.6

PASS junk yard on left, Grassy Road 1 on Right, Grassy Road 2 on Right, and Elk River Overlook Trail on left

PEAK ONE 5,307’ – MILE 10.9 – Checkpoint and water station

STRAIGHT into woods

PASS Chamerberlains Loop Trail on right

STRAIGHT THROUGH GATE onto Lodge Ridge Drive (Eagles Nest Development – private road) – MILE 11.1

STRAIGHT onto Eagles Nest Parkway – MILE 11.5

LEFT off Dirt Highway onto double track (course marshal 4) – MILE 13.1

Follow trail into woods, up short steep rise, then take right, following trail into a clearing adjacent to a Xmas tree farm. Follow tracks bearing left and downhill, turning to the left at the huge lone tree and descending to gate (will be closed)

EXIT Christmas Tree Farm by climbing over or going under gate – MILE 13.5

<<ENTER Fall Creek Fire District>>

LEFT Old Beech Mountain Rd/SR-1319 (course marshal 5) – MILE 13.5

<<HALF DISTANCE RACE TURNS RIGHT – SKIP TO MILE 32.1>>

RIGHT Sam Eller Rd/SR-1310 (VFD 1 directing traffic) – MILE 14.7

LEFT Beech Mountain Rd/SR-1330 (VFD 2 directing traffic) – MILE 15.0

RIGHT Falls Creek Parkway (Headwaters of Banner Elk Development – private road) – MILE 15.6

STRAIGHT through Guard House/Gate

CAUTION – descent immediately after entering property is very steep and technical

STRAIGHT into woods where pavement turns right uphill to clubhouse - MILE 17.6

RIGHT at fork (grown over, left is hard to see) – MILE 18.1

CROSS STREAM and climb hill – MILE 18.5

LEFT at fork when trail begins bending right – MILE 18.6

RIGHT when trail ends at T-intersection (stream crosses trail to the left) – MILE 18.9

STRAIGHT through gate (may be closed) - MILE 20.0

<<ENTER CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST>>

STRAIGHT through gate (may be closed) onto Dark Ridge Rd, Butler, TN - MILE 21.0

<<ENTER JOHNSON COUNTY, TN>>

PASS parking for Twisted Falls trail – note, second house on right has phone on porch for emergencies

RIGHT at end onto Dark Ridge Rd/SR-1310 (course marshal 6) – MILE 21.5

<<ENTER AVERY COUNTY & Fall Creek Fire District>> – MILE 22.0

LEFT Joe Parlier/SR-1312 – MILE 23.3

LEFT Buckeye Rd/SR-1312 – MILE 24.7

RIGHT Buckeye Creek Rd/SR-1371 (course marshal 7) – MILE 25.0

<<ENTER Town of Beech Mountain>>

RIGHT Pinnacle Ridge Rd (course marshal 8) – MILE 27.3

<<ENTER Beech Mountain Fire District>>

RIGHT through covered bridge onto Buckeye Ridge Rd (Chestnut Falls Development) – MILE 27.5

RIGHT over bridge (course marshal 9) opposite direction as 2010 course – MILE 28.6

IMMEDIATE LEFT onto trail into West Bowl (Eagles Nest Development)

RIGHT in sandy “moonscape” – MILE 28.8

Trail narrows as it descends, then quickly opens with several options – take the right line uphill to avoid a metal culvert straight ahead.

At top of small rise bear left onto parallel trail.

The trail shortly narrows again, before narrow gorge straight ahead, take left uphill, staying alongside trees to the left as you make steep climb. At apex of climb, go left uphill on double track. Trail will drop and narrow again into double track.

When you enter very large sandy clearing, follow to end

LEFT onto jeep road climb – MILE 29.2

Climb jeep track through grassy field (easier line in grass to right of track)
DANGER SKEET SHOOTING

Follow jeep track bending to right

LEFT up narrow grassy trail before jeep track goes into trees – MILE 29.5

CLIMB steep (>30% 0.25 miles) jeep road one mile

RIGHT on Eagles Nest Parkway – MILE 30.6

PEAK TWO 5,024' – Checkpoint closes at 3:00PM racers will be directed back to start

This is the same descent to the Xmas tree farm as earlier in the race.

LEFT off Dirt Highway onto double track (course marshal 4) – MILE 31.8

EXIT Christmas Tree Farm through gate – MILE 32.1

<<ENTER Fall Creek Fire District>>

RIGHT Old Beech Mountain Rd/SR-1319 (course marshal 5) – MILE 32.1

<<HALF DISTANCE resumes here, use distance in *italics*>>

RIGHT Beech Mountain Rd/SR-1330 (VFD 4 directing traffic) – MILE 33.2 *14.5*

RIGHT Buckeye Rd/SR-1312 – MILE 35.2 *16.5*

Pass earlier turn on Buckeye Creek Rd

RIGHT Kellersville Rd/SR-1139 (course marshal 10) – MILE 37.7 *19.0*

<<ENTER WATAUGA COUNTY>>

<<ENTER Beaver Dam Fire District>>

RIGHT Perry Presnell Rd – MILE 38.7 *19.1*

LEFT Presnell School Rd - MILE 39.7 *21.0*

RIGHT Andy Hicks Rd /SR-1128 (course marshal 11) – MILE 40.4 *21.7*

<<ENTER Shawneehaw Fire District>>

RIGHT Shawnee Rd/SR-1127 (course marshal 12) – MILE 43.2 *24.5*

PEAK THREE 4,651' – MILE 45.4 *25.9*

PASS earlier turn on Barn Rd and continue to descend pavement

CAUTION steep and technical descent – do NOT try to make up lost time

LEFT at Stop Sign on Lee Gualtney Rd/SR-1130 (course marshal 13) – MILE 46.9 28.2

RIGHT on narrow unmarked gravel road – MILE 47.1 28.4

FINISH at Winery – MILE 47.3 28.6