Sierra Express Bicycle Club

The Sierra Express Bicycle Club was founded in the 1970s and has been organized in its current form since 1999.

Each year, the club sponsors its “Burn of the Century” ride on the Saturday of Father’s Day weekend, the day before the Nevada City Bicycle Classic.

The club welcomes new members and riders of all abilities. Membership forms and a monthly ride calendar are posted on the club Web site. Visitors are welcome at meetings the last Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., Citizen’s Restaurant, 221 Broad St., Nevada City.

For information contact:

Sierra Express Bicycle Club
PMB 163, 228 Commercial Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
www.sierraexpress.org.

Nevada County Blue Skies, Green Trees & Great Bicycling

Five Favorite Rides

• Allison Ranch Loop
• LeMond Loop
• Indian Springs-McCourtney Loop
• Bridgeport-Bitney Springs Loop
• Old Donner Pass Road

This route guide has been prepared as a cooperative effort of the Sierra Express Bicycle Club and the Joint Chambers of Commerce of Nevada County.

The Joint Chambers of Commerce of Nevada County

INFORMATION:

Grass Valley/Nevada County Chamber
248 Mill Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 273-4667 • (800) 655-4667
Web: www.grassvalleychamber.com
E-Mail: info@grassvalleychamber.com

Nevada City Chamber
132 Main Street, Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-2692 • (800) 655-NJOY
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2007
Peaceful, uncrowded roads meander through the scenic countryside of Nevada County, making this an ideal area for road biking. Although not heavily trafficked, our roads are often curved and narrow so extra caution should be used.

Nevada County has long been a cycling center, due in large part to the famous Nevada City Bicycle Classic, which dates to 1961 and is the oldest bicycle race on the West Coast. Some of America’s best known competitors, including Tour de France winners Greg LeMond and Lance Armstrong, have raced here. In fact, one of the rides in this brochure is a LeMond favorite and is named in his honor.

This brochure includes five local routes that are ridden regularly and have been thoroughly researched by members of the Sierra Express Bicycle Club.

We hope you enjoy them....

**Allison Ranch Loop**

**Distance:** 10.3 miles  
**Type of Ride:** Rural farmland, woods and valleys  
**Degree of Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate - rolling hills with 2 climbs

**Start:** Nevada County Fairgrounds - Gate 1, 11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley (Mill Street Exit off of SR 20)

This wonderful ride takes you through farmland, woods, valleys, and over beautiful Wolf Creek twice, all in just a little over 10 miles! The start is at the remarkable Nevada County Fairgrounds, where, during our warmer months, you’ll no doubt find an interesting event to attend. Do not miss the historical North Star Powerhouse Mining Museum at mile 0.4 of the ride. There you will also find an inviting park with picnic tables alongside Wolf Creek. Enjoy all the diversity this lovely little ride offers.

0.0  LEFT onto McCourtney Road  
0.4  RIGHT onto Allison Ranch Road  
5.2  RIGHT onto Hwy. 49  
5.3  RIGHT onto Pingree Road  
5.8  RIGHT onto Auburn Road  
10.1  RIGHT onto McCourtney Road  
10.3  LEFT into Nevada County Fairgrounds - Gate 1
LeMond Loop

Distance: 14.6 miles
Type of Ride: Rolling hills with pastoral views. End in charming, historic Nevada City.
Degree of Difficulty: Easy/Moderate (one short, steep hill)

Start: Tour of Nevada City Bicycle Shop, 457 Sacramento Street, Nevada City

Two hundred riders of all levels rode the loop (also known as Newtown Loop) with Tour de France champion Greg LeMond in 2000. This scenic ride takes you by the local high school (best on weekends and in summer when school is not in session), by farmlands and ranches, through Deer Creek canyon, and back through historic Nevada City.

0.0 START. Ride south on Sacramento Street
0.1 BEAR LEFT onto Zion Street
0.8 RIGHT onto Ridge Road
4.4 RIGHT onto Rough & Ready Hwy.
5.8 RIGHT onto Bitney Springs Road
7.7 RIGHT onto Empress Road
8.3 LEFT onto Newtown Road
11.6 RIGHT onto Hwy. 49
12.0 RIGHT onto Old Downieville Hwy.
13.7 BEAR LEFT onto Monroe Street
14.0 BEAR RIGHT onto Bennett Street
14.1 RIGHT onto Spring Street
14.2 RIGHT onto S. Pine Street
14.6 RIGHT onto Sacramento Street, arrive at Tour of Nevada City Bike Shop

Indian Springs - McCourtney Loop

Distance: 46 miles
Type of Ride: Mostly rural farmland
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult, rolling terrain, some hills

Start: Pleasant Valley Rd./Hwy. 20 Park and Ride

This beautiful, mostly rural ride takes you by vineyards, farmland, horse ranches, and local scenery in and around Penn Valley and Grass Valley.

0.0 RIGHT on Penn Valley Drive
0.4 LEFT onto Indian Springs Road
2.3 JOG LEFT to continue on Indian Springs Road
5.9 RIGHT onto McCourtney Road
11.1 LEFT onto Lime Kiln Road
13.5 RIGHT onto Duggans Road
15.4 BEAR LEFT onto Wolf Road
17.4 CROSS Hwy. 49 onto Combie Road at the stoplight
18.2 CONTINUE on Magnolia Road
23.2 BEAR LEFT onto Dog Bar Road
30.5 RIGHT onto Rattlesnake Road
34.7 LEFT onto SR 174 (Colfax Hwy.)
36.8 RIGHT onto S. Auburn Street
36.9 LEFT onto W. Main Street
37.5 CONTINUE West on Rough and Ready Hwy.; cross Hwy 20; continue South on Penn Valley Drive
43.9 CONTINUE South on Penn Valley Dr.
46.0 ARRIVE at Penn Valley Park and Ride
Bridgeport - Bitney Springs Loop

Distance: 33.5 miles
Type of Ride: Rural farmland/residential
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult, rolling terrain, some hills

Start: Tour of Nevada City Bicycle Shop, 457 Sacramento Street, Nevada City

This beautiful, mostly rural ride takes you by farmland, historical sites, and crosses the South Yuba River twice. It’s also interesting to do this route in the opposite direction.

0.0 GO SOUTH on Sacramento St.  
0.1 BEAR LEFT onto Zion St.  
0.5 RIGHT onto Ridge Road  
4.1 RIGHT onto Rough and Ready Hwy.  
5.5 RIGHT onto Bitney Springs Road  
12.4 RIGHT onto Pleasant Valley Road  
21.4 RIGHT onto SR-49  
31.0 RIGHT onto Old Downieville Hwy.  
32.7 BEAR LEFT onto Monroe St.  
32.9 BEAR RIGHT onto Bennett St.  
33.0 RIGHT onto Spring St.  
33.2 RIGHT onto S. Pine St.  
33.5 RIGHT onto Sacramento Street, arrive at Tour of Nevada City Bike Shop.

Old Donner Pass Road

Distance: 44 Miles
Type of Ride: Mountains, Yuba River, Donner Lake, historic Truckee.
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult (one long climb and descent)

Start: Cisco Grove exit across Interstate 80 to Hampshire Rocks Road. (Parking available.)

This is a beautiful out-and-back ride to historic Truckee that follows only two roads, Hampshire Rocks Road (HRR) and Donner Pass Road (DPR). Bypassing the traffic of I-80, you ride along the river and past ski areas over Donner Pass, where you are greeted with spectacular views of Donner Lake. Continue into Old Town Truckee for refreshments.

0.0 START EAST on Hampshire Rocks Road, continuing RIGHT over I-80 then LEFT along Yuba River

2.5 LEFT across I-80 to Donner Pass Road (DPR)  
2.6 RIGHT on DPR  
8.8 CONTINUE on DPR across I-80 into Norden area and on to Sugar Bowl Ski Area  
11.8 CONTINUE on DPR past Sugar Bowl ski area and Donner Summit down to Donner Lake  
16.3 CONTINUE on DPR past Donner Memorial State Park and museum to stop sign  
19.5 LEFT on DPR across I-80 through Truckee to roundabout  
21.6 LEFT onto Commercial Row into Old Town Truckee  
22.0 REVERSE route from Truckee to return parking on Hampshire Rocks Road.

Ride Safely  
Always Wear Your Helmet  
Have Fun!