

JOE COSLEY



Pancake Ride

WHITEFISH, MT

Welcome back for the 3rd edition of the Joe Cosley Pancake Ride, August 3, 2019. Or if you are signing up for the first time, I look forward to pedaling with you for a bit during the ride.

As you may know, the ride route changes each year and a new theme for ride day is employed. This years theme celebrates some of the Norwegian heritage that is part of northwest Montana.

This years ride was intended to travel out to Libby and back, but the route proved a bit boring, and was about 200 miles of valley bottom roads with no significant landmarks or mountain top visits. So, the route will head in that general direction, sharing about 20 miles of the inaugural JCPR of 2017, while fitting in a Forest Service Lookout, 3 new mountain top visits, a new convenience store, a possible stop (not required) at Jerry's Saloon for a mid-morning Bloody Mary, and the longest JCPR yet.

I shortened up the initial loop from 184 down to 167 with 15k of climbing and descending. There was a bit of unnecessary pavement and valley bottom meandering, so I took that part out. I'm sure there will be a few other small route adjustments, but I can't see the route distance decreasing any more than it is. With the 4AM start this should give everyone a pretty good chance to finish before it gets dark. Civil Twilight-5:38 am, Daylight-6:15 am-9:10 pm, and Civil Twilight-9:46 pm. That gives you about 17 hours to finish the ride before it gets dark, that's a 10 mph average.

The route is linked on the website, have a look for references to the below. You will receive a final route file as a gpx file for your gps unit/cycling computer. This will be your only means of navigating the course. The route utilizes First and Secondary Forest Service, State Lands and County Roads, all suitable for 2 wheel drive traffic. Not all roads and intersections are signed as some of the route travels through semi remote areas. The route file you will receive is 100% accurate as it is compiled from actual bike rides of the route. When I have the final route determined, I will send out a route file that states this is the "JCPR 2019 FINAL ROUTE", the current versions are just for reference. I know for a fact that there will be a few minor re-routes.

Course Info:

The course travels north from the Whitefish Bike Retreat, and your first aid station is at about mile 45, at the Forest Service Lookout on top of Mount Marston. There will be coffee, snacks, GU Energy Gels, Skratch Labs hydration mix, Lefse and of course some whiskey. There are no drop bags at this location.

You then have about 25 miles till your next opportunity for a resupply at mile 70. This is at a Conoco Gas and Convenience Store in Fortine on Highway 93. Again no drop bags. Stock up as it will be 40 miles till your next aid station. You will need to purchase a Power Ball ticket with a Power Play, that needs to be turned at the next aid station.

At mile 110 atop Pinkam Mountain, will be your last aid station. There will be water, snacks, Lefse, Luteisk, GU Energy Gels, SKRATCH LABS hydration mix and of course more whiskey. There will be drop bags at this location. Drop bags need to be left at the pre ride meeting on Friday August 2nd. Please limit your drop bags to essential items. Make sure you have enough calories to make it to the 57 miles back to the Whitefish Bike Retreat for salty snacks and some seasonal Kalispell Brewing Company - Joe Cosley India Pale Lager. Don't forget to hand in your Lotto ticket.

People have inquired about a shorter route, there isn't (an official) one.

For those of you that may think a 167 is a tad much, there are several reasonable short cuts. It would be very easy to cut out miles 70 - 124. You still get to ride some great parts of the route, but shorten it up to 113 miles. At mile 70 you end up at the Conoco, where you would short cut the route and meet back up with it at the mile 124, at the junction of Fortine Creek Road and Jim Creek Road. The intersecting distance is about 10 miles and is on a paved road. You will need to stock up at the Conoco for the remaining distance of 53 miles back to the Whitefish Bike Retreat. I will create some "alternative safety route(s)" gpx files that people can upload into their devices, if they choose to make deviations from the original route.

The JCPR is about having a fun time. I'll be honest that it's type 2 fun. I'd say at least give it a shot, you might surprise yourself. That being said, if you want to sign up for the purpose of hanging out with some really great folks, drink some beer, slide down some Lutefisk, and other enjoyable aspects that the JCPR has to offer, sign up. As long as you start the ride with the intention of giving it your best pedal, I'm fine with that, even if you only pedal a mile. You'll just have to wait till the first person rolls across the finish line to tap the keg(s).

Pertinent information for this years ride:

- The JCPR is a semi self supported adventure ride/race that travels through remote areas of north west Montana. The JCPR provides a gpx file of the route to be ridden, two aid stations, but beyond that, you are responsible for yourself. There is no on course roaming support, mechanical, psychological or otherwise. Be prepared as you are responsible for yourself.
- It's a good idea to pair up on the ride. Safety in numbers.
- There are numerous water sources along the route, in the form of natural creeks and streams. Up to you if you want to filter the water or not. There is no reason to run out of water and become dehydrated on this ride. If you are low on water and you see a creek, stop and fill up. I will include place markers on the gpx route file of some of the more obvious water sources.
- Cell service is minimal while on the course. It is recommended that you carry a personal rescue/communication device. Such as a SPOT, INREACH....
- You will be required to sign in and out at each aid station.
- There is no on course mechanical support, if you break down you need to be prepared to fix what went wrong.
- There is no sweep of the course.
- Don't count on getting a ride back from the Pinkam Aid Station if you get tired.
- Finish with what you started with, the aid stations aren't meant to leave personal belonging at to lighten your load.
- If you surrender during the event you need to text the RD that you are withdrawing.
- There are bears, both Black and Grizzly Bears, it's recommended that you carry Bear Deterrent Pepper Spray. Mountain Lions are also on the prowl.

- Pre ride waiver signing at the Whitefish Bike Retreat, August 2, 6 pm with a short briefing at 6:30. Miss this and you're out of the ride, don't show up Saturday morning.
- Ride starts at 4 am sharp. There will be a roll call at 3:55. Ride starts at the WBR General Store.
- You will need a front and rear light for your bike. Miles 2-6 are on Highway 93. Everybody needs to be legal. Make sure you turn your lights off if you think you may finish into the twilight hours as the return route retraces the 4 miles on Highway 93 at the end.
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions. It could be hot, cold, raining, snowing, there could be lightning, huge thunder storms.... You get the idea, it's Montana, it could snow in August.
- You are responsible for yourself, mentally and physically. Make sure your bike is in good condition and properly outfitted for the ride. You should treat this as a self supported adventure ride.

I've mentioned this a few times, but just so you know, this will be the last single day JCPR. 2020 will be a 3-4 day adventure ride utilizing routes from the past 3 editions. Ride distances will range anywhere from 60-100 miles. It will be a fully inclusive deal, meals, camping sites, beer, gear shuttles (you will be responsible for carrying some of your own personal gear). The cost will still be reasonable, but it's going to go up. The group size will be limited. I'll give everybody a heads up.

That's it, Brad

P.S. If you have a question(s) about anything, please ask. I'm here to help.