

Why the Montana Mixed Epic? It all started with a plan.... The Joe Cosley Pancake Ride had a five year plan. It all started in the spring of 2014 after riding and finishing Guitar Ted's Trans Iowa. Years 1,2, and 3 were single day 150+ mile endurance rides. Year 4, ??... And year 5 was to be a west to east crossing of the State of Montana between the Hi Line and the Canadian Border. Year 5 ended up being a west to east pedal across Montana, so here we are, 6 years later and going from north to south.

What is the MME? It's a fully self supported bike packing adventure ride/race across the state of Montana. On the Kelly Cordes fun scale I'll give it a "Type 2" rating, realistically it may have jumped into the "Type 3" category (west to east version) when you finish and have a moment to reflect. So, this a one and done event. If you're the kind of person that likes to see how things go for the first year and wait, there will be no 2nd year event.

"I guess you never really know what sort of fun you're getting yourself into once you leave the couch, which is fine, because it doesn't always have to be "fun" to be fun.

Maybe the whole goal, the path of the enlightened, is to turn Type III situations into Type I fun. Right. Anybody had any luck with that?"

Kelly Cordes

Current link to the route info - [HERE](#)

The MME is a show up and ride type of thing. If you choose to participate, there will be a participant roster, you will be required to carry a SPOT Tracker or a Garmin InReach device and register with Track Leaders. Just a way of keeping track of folks and adding a measure of safety. If you would like to ride, send an email to joe@pancakeride.com with a note on your intention to ride. I'll post a participant list a bit down the road. You will also receive information on renting a SPOT Tracker or setting up your own SPOT or InReach with Track leaders.

Rules? Up to you. I would surmise that anyone participating, and that adheres to a strict definition and ethos of "self supported", will be pretty happy with their accomplishment upon reaching the southern border of Montana. Just be transparent with your journey, both subjectively and objectively. If you are battling a 50 mph headwind and a farmer stops and ask if you want a ride, there is no right or wrong answer.

Details? "This is a Lewis and Clark style adventure". That's a hint that you need to do some research on what to expect along the way. You will find any generalization here and the RWGPS route file will list significant POI's and any important information. The route traverses the state utilizing mixed road surfaces. There's a bit of pavement along the way, a short stint on I-90, some great backcountry dirt roads, 1 mile of single track and a nice hike at the end of the ride, so there's a bit of everything.

To reach the southern most point of the state will require a bit of a walk. The cycling ends at the boundary of the Italian Peaks Recommended Wilderness Area. It's up to you if you want to cover the last bit on foot and make it an official border-border thing.

I can't possibly "scout" the entire route, that being said I've done my best to create a reliable route file. I'm being totally upfront about this. I have utilized several mapping programs, along with data provided by the Montana Department of Transportation. I cross referenced everything with the MDOT inventoried road system. I have also enlisted several friends to vet the route in areas that I am not familiar with. That being said, the route file is 99.9% reliable and rideable. These are all roads that are accessible by the general public, so please be aware that there are others users sharing the roads with you. Road surfaces vary from paved, graded, gravel, and unmaintained. If you come to an impasse for some unknown reason, you need to be able to apply some critical thinking skills.

Route improvements and updates? If any, notices will be posted on the associated social media outlet. A "FINAL" route will be posted a couple weeks before the ride. There may be a few updates, on the route, but it's 99% set.

POI's will be added along the route and they will be labeled with the appropriate information. Water, food, segment information, anything worth noting. Average stretches are about 100 miles between resupply options, some in the 125 mile range. You may have to carry some supplies as not all stops have a convenience/food store and may only have a small cafe or restaurant.

Start date, June 24, High Noon. Should be late enough to see that the snow has melted out of the high passes, and somewhat ensures the spring monsoons are over and the mild Montana Summer weather will have taken hold.

The MME will start on the Canadian/Montana State line at the Roseville Border Crossing. The Duty Free Store parking lot is the closest one can get to the US/CA Border, so that will be considered the "Start".

Montana offers long days and the nights will give you just enough time to catch some sleep and recharge your system. Average usable daylight in late June, will be around 17 hours. The actual Summer Solstice in Montana is on June 20, with a Waxing Crescent moon on June 24, with a New Moon on June 29. Essentially you won't see the moon much on your ride.

Whitefish is about 80 miles from the start (driving miles). It may be possible to arrange a shuttle from Whitefish to the start. Details at a later date.

From the finish it's about 35 miles to Lima and 70 to Dillon. Lima has limited services and Dillon has a bit more to offer. Neither one is a transportation hub. You'll have to figure out some logistics on how to get home. Best option is to have a pre-arranged ride (good friend) to get you back to where ever you need to be.

If you have questions, please ask - joe@pancakeride.com I'm also open to feedback. My name is actually Brad, not Joe.