

HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB ROARING FORK ROAD AND GRAVEL “GROAD” WEEKEND

- Dates:** Wednesday July 15, 2020 - 8 pm orientation meeting. Riding: July 16-19, depart Sunday July 19, 2020.
- Leaders:** Ron Finch, Robin/Steve Heil **SAGs** Robin Heil, Bev Louie
- Rating:** Intermediate to advanced. 157 miles, 11,841 ft of climbing. Daily rides range from 49 – 55 miles with 2,150 to 3,783 feet vertical per day (shorter ride option on Sunday)
- Riders:** 30 (maximum) plus leaders and SAGs
- Price:** \$760 (double occupancy); \$250 at registration; Remainder due April 15, 2020
Hotel Single Supplement (solo or with non-riding partner): + 55% (\$1,178 total).
\$420 (Private lodging option – see notes at end)
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy applies](#). Travel insurance is recommended

OVERVIEW

Please join us for a four day tour of riding up and over the hills and ridges surrounding the Roaring Fork Valley. The fixed base for this tour will be in Basalt, Colorado, located 180 miles west of Denver and 20 miles down valley from Aspen, Colorado. Basalt (pop 4,200) is a historic mining turned resort town located at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers at an elevation of 6,611 feet.

Many excellent restaurants and/or pubs are available within 5 minutes walking distance of the hotel. The Aspenalt Lodge is located on the banks of the Frying Pan River so bring your fly rod and try your luck in these Gold Medal waters or relax in the afternoon/evenings by the river. Non-riding partners are encouraged to join us.



ITINERARY

The rides are loops from Basalt over lightly travelled roads and bike paths. We used some portions of the 2018 tour and “groad” connectors to access different roads for a new ride experience. The gravel sections of this tour are uphill, short (2.5 - 7.5 miles) and can better be described as hard packed dirt (i.e. pretty smooth under normal conditions). Note that Sunday’s ride will be an out and back ride with variable length options for those needing to meet travel constraints.

Wednesday July 15. Evening orientation, 8 pm at the Aspenalt Inn. WIFI and free breakfast are included. There are 3+ coffee shops/cafes very nearby for those that want a more extensive breakfast or upscale coffee. Early arrivals can ride on the Rio Grande bike trail or up the Frying Pan road towards Ruedi reservoir.

Thursday July 16. Missouri heights - Glenwood Springs loop; 53 miles, 3,363 ft vertical with ~ 6 miles of gravel. We will ride up and over the Missouri heights ranching region. It is a beautiful area full of horses, llamas, giant pastures, and big vistas of Mt. Sopris and the Marble river valley. Descending into the lower Roaring Fork valley we roll on to Glenwood Springs for lunch. The return trip takes us up towards the Sunlight ski area. A 6 mile cut across on the gravel Dry Park road yields a new aspect of Mt Sopris and Capital peak. After a fast descent into Carbondale the ride finishes with a cruise back up the Rio Grande bike path to Basalt. We will have a group meal this evening.



Friday July 17. Snowmass loop: 49 miles, 3,783 ft vertical with ~10 miles of gravel. Proclaimed “best ride ever” after the scouting ride this fall. This route starts with a warm-up ascent up the dirt East Sopris Creek road (more vistas of Mt. Sopris and Capital peak). A short, paved descent takes us into the lightly travelled Snowmass Creek drainage and a moderate pedal up to the base of the Campground lift at the Snowmass ski area. A short but steep climb (fair warning, we walked 2-3 stretches) through an Aspen forest crests the ridge for the end of the gravel and a fast descent into the Snowmass Village for lunch. From there the route takes a short climb on the Owl Creek bike path for a grand descent into Aspen. Side trips are possible for ice cream, the John Denver Garden, fur coats or other Aspen type treats. Continue descending to the Rio Grande bike path and a downhill cruise to Basalt. Note: a couple of short cuts are available to reduce the distance (38.4 miles) and climbing (2,769’).

Saturday July 18. Red Canyon loop: 55 miles, 3,150 ft vertical with ~ 7.5 miles of gravel. Also proclaimed “best ride ever” after the scouting trip this fall. The ride begins with 22 miles of gentle downhill through the central Roaring Fork Valley. A short steep ascent of the Red Canyon gravel road (2.5 miles) accesses the paved rolling ranch land of upper Missouri heights (vistas, vistas, vistas) and lunch. After a gentle 5 mile climb on packed dirt through rustic ranch country the big views of the Elk range open up. A raucous descent takes us back to the Roaring Fork valley and a gentle uphill cruise back to Basalt.



Sunday July 19. Ruedi Reservoir out and back: 28 miles 1,545 ft of vertical, zero gravel. Resurfaced in the summer of 2019 we can't pass up a ride from Basalt to Ruedi reservoir along the Frying Pan river. Red rock outcrops, Aspen forests and idyllic river scenes dominate this part of the ride. From Ruedi reservoir you can return to Basalt or those with more time and remaining leg power can ascend the road along the reservoir to the Meredith post office (add 17 miles and 2,000 ft of vertical to round trip).

Pricing Note: The Tour allows two options: (1) With hotel, and (2) without hotel – for those who can stay in your own residence or at a friend's private residence, but with all other tour benefits and support. If you are not staying at a private residence, we request that you stay at the group hotel to help with our group rate and for interactions with other riders. Those staying at private residences are expected to attend all orientation and daily briefing meetings at the group hotel. When registering for Private Residence, mark roommate as "Private residence."

For further information contact:

Ron Finch at blouie-rfinch@comcast.net 303-656-5573, or
Robin Heil at rjsheil@bresnan.net 970-270-2164