

(including the 8,314-foot Monitor Pass).
INFO: deathride.com

MT. HAMILTON
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
▲ 23 M, 4% AG, 4,500 FVG ▲

LOCALS SAY: Once the summit is in view, you still have 5 miles to go. But on a clear day, you'll be able to see the whole San Francisco Bay area from the top—including the Sierra Nevada range, 250 miles away. **FIND IT:** On State Hwy. 130, east of San Jose. **DON'T MISS:** The exhibits at Lick Observatory, the world's first permanently occupied mountaintop observatory. **INFO:** westernwheelers.org/main/resources/BA_Climbs.html

SIERRA ROAD
MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA
▲ 3.5 M, 10% AG, 2,000 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: It's relentless—far fewer midclimb flats and downhill than the more popular Diablo and Tam routes. **FIND IT:** East of Hwy. 680 in Milpitas. **DON'T MISS:** Shaw's Lightweight Bike shop, a nearby hole-in-the-wall, in case of emergencies. **INFO:** trails.com/tcatalog_trail.asp?trailid=BGS102-005

OLD LA HONDA
PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
▲ 3.37 M, 7% AG, 1,290 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: Narrow, twisty switchbacks and stairsteps feel like a Euro lane. **FIND IT:** Two miles from Hwy. 280. Take Sand Hill Rd. exit to the west. This road turns into Portola Rd., and the climb is on the right. **DON'T MISS:** A chance to demolish the record of 14:10 set by five-time Olympic speed-skating champ and Tour de France vet Eric Heiden. **INFO:** chainreaction.com/tunitasloop.htm

LEFTHAND CANYON TO WARD
BOULDER, COLORADO
▲ 16 M, 7% AG, 4,000 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: In the roughly three hours it takes to do the climb, you can expect to get passed at some point by a Discovery rider or other pro. **FIND IT:** North of Boulder, at intersection of US-36 and Lefthand Canyon, climbing US-72. **DON'T MISS:** The zip-code guy on Pearl St., who can tell anyone their hometown if they tell him their zip code. **INFO:** bicyclecolo.org

MORGUL BISMARCK LOOP
BOULDER, COLORADO
▲ 13.5 M, 4% AG, 1,400 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: This was the most famous stage of the legendary Red Zinger/Coors Classic race—and the setting for the pivotal race in *American Flyers*. **BUT:**

Suburban development has tarnished some of the magnificence. **FIND IT:** At the intersection of US-93 and Marshall Dr., go east to McCaslin Blvd. then south to CO-128. West on CO-128 and back to US-93. **DON'T MISS:** The semipermanent rock tattoo of 100-foot letters "CU" in white paint on the Third Flatiron. **INFO:** colorado.edu/studentgroups/cucycling

MT. EVANS
IDAHO SPRINGS, COLORADO
▲ 28.5 M, 6% AG, 6,800 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: Sometimes the tourist attraction is just as appealing to the hometowners. There's no way to not love the highest paved road in the United States. **TRY TO DO IT IN:** A decent time to crest the 14,264-foot peak is 2.5 to 3.5 hours. Less than 1:41 and you're breaking a record, says local rider Beth Ramestise. **FIND IT:** Start in Idaho Springs off I-70, take exit 240 to State 103 south. **DON'T MISS:** The Bob Cook Memorial Mt. Evans Hill Climb in July, with its \$2,500 prize for record breakers. **INFO:** heartcycle.org

NEW PRESTON NUISANCE
NEW PRESTON, CONNECTICUT
▲ 3 M, 6% AG, 900 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: At the crest, stop and give thanks at the old stone church. **FIND IT:** Left off Rt. 202 onto New Preston Hill Rd. before Lake Waramaug. **DON'T MISS:** The thoroughbreds at the horse farm on the right—they'll sometimes race alongside you. **INFO:** bicycletours.com

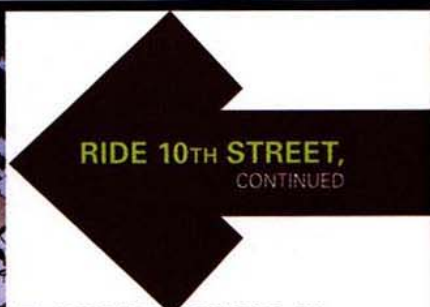
PECK ORCHARD ROAD
NORTH GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
▲ 1.5 M, 18% AG, 800 FVG ▲

LOCALS SAY: The grades are bearish—but the furry, clawed beasts that sometimes wander across the road really are bears. Watch you don't get eaten. **FIND IT:** Peck Orchard Rd. off Rt. 189. **DON'T MISS:** The Monday-night ride leaving at 6 from Valley Bicycles. **INFO:** valleybicycle.com

HIGH POINT HILL
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
▲ 0.4 M, 14% AG, 250 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: Top out in two minutes and you earn bragging rights—especially because many riders aim merely to not clip out. **FIND IT:** Beaver Valley Rd. off Rt. 202. **DON'T MISS:** Post-ride margies at El Tapatio. **INFO:** bikeline.com

MICCOSUKEE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
▲ 0.75 M, 7% AG, 350 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: It's not the slope; it's the humidity. **FIND IT:** Five miles northeast of Tallahassee on Miccosukee Rd. **DON'T MISS:** The Spaghetti 100, a winding century covering northern Florida and southern Georgia complete with a carb-lover's delight: spaghetti dinner. **INFO:** bikesunshine.net

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN
FERNDALE, FLORIDA
▲ 0.6 M, 14% AG, 300 FVG ▲
LOCALS SAY: Views as far as the eye can see—from 312 feet above sea level, that is. **FIND IT:** From the west, 9 miles north of Hwy. 50 on Rt. 455. Left on 561A, right on Sugarloaf Mt. Rd. **DON'T MISS:** The only way to get higher: the Citrus Tower in Clermont. Hop in the elevator, push a



■ 97 PEDAL STROKES (39x21)
AFTER THE CLIMBING REALLY STARTS, AT THE CORNER OF FURNACE STREET, YOU POP OVER AN ELEVATED RAILBED SO LONG UNUSED THAT THE TRACKS ARE RUSTY. ONE DAY A LONE ENGINE STEAMED AT ME AS I CROSSED. I STOPPED, TRANSFIXED, AND IT PASSED WITHIN INCHES OF MY WHEELS.