

**Mileage = 35.4****Elevation Gain = 1,471****Category = Easy**

Having paid our respects to the Adirondack High Peaks in the previous two rides, we turn now to the Catskills. High Country Ride is entirely within Greene County. It starts in the village of Hunter, best known for its downhill ski area. To get there, take Thruway Exit 20 (Saugerties). If coming from the north on the Thruway, turn right, or north, on SR 32 coming off the exit ramp. Bear left on SR 32A at 5.7 miles, then left at the end on SR 23A in 1.8 miles. Go 11.3 miles to the starting point, the circular drive of a school on the right in the Village of Hunter. This area of the Catskills is known as *Mountain Top*.

The ride starts by going northwest on SR 23A, which it follows for  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles along the Schoharie Creek. After a mile or two, stop and look back at Hunter Mountain to know you're in mountain country! Overall, this is not a difficult ride, however, having a cumulative elevation gain of only 1,471 feet, 54% of which comes in the last 9.7 miles. At the 6.3-mile point (cue sheet line 7), you'll pass the junction with CR 17, on the right. Just beyond is St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church with its tiered roofline and onion-shaped domes. It was constructed in 1962 of un-nailed slotted red cedar. At line 15, you cross the Batavia Kill, which flows into Schoharie Creek at about that point. You turn right on SR 23, which follows the Batavia Kill east for 9.9 miles to Windham. One reason there is so little climbing on the first 25 miles of this ride is that it follows the valleys (the road builder knew what they were doing!). The other reason is that the ride starts at a high elevation and stays there.

There are various places to eat in Windham. I picked Michael's Diner on the right side of SR 23 because it has a nice, covered deck on which I could enjoy a sandwich while keeping an eye on my Serotta.

Leaving Michael's, you continue east on SR 23A for a little over a mile before turning right on SR 296 (line 29). You're now at a sea-level elevation of 1,587 feet. In the next  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, you'll climb to 2,005 feet (line 34), followed by descents, ascents and descents. The cumulative elevation gain in the final 9.7 miles is 790 feet.

START:HUNTER ELEM. SCHOOL,JUST W OF HUNTER MT.SKI AREA				
1	GO W ON SR 23A	1,624 FT., MSL ELEVATION	-	-
2	PASS SR 296 - R	1,601'	0.9	0.9
3	PASS WRIGHT RD. - R (1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME)	1,534'	1.1	2.0
4	PASS WRIGHT RD. - R AGAIN	1,537'	0.6	2.6
5	PASS CARR RD. - L	1,481'	1.7	4.3
6	PASS CLOOS RD. - R	1,463'	0.9	5.2
7	PASS CR 17 - R	1,426'	1.1	6.3
8	PASS BUSH RD. - L	1,422'	1.4	7.7
9	PASS CR 13 - R	1,385'	1.1	8.8
10	PASS CR 13A - L	1,370'	0.6	9.4
11	PASS BANKS RD. - R	1,355'	0.6	10.0
12	PASS NEW RD. - R	1,316'	0.7	10.7
13	PASS CARTWRIGHT RD. - R	1,309'	0.9	11.6
14	PASS CR 23C - R	1,243'	2.2	13.8
15	R ON SR 23	1,179'	1.7	15.5
16	PASS COZY HOLLOW RD. - L	1,250'	0.9	16.4
17	PASS CR 4 - L	1,294'	0.8	17.2
18	PASS CR 5 - L	1,389'	1.1	18.3
19	PASS CR 63 - L	1,437'	2.1	20.4
20	PASS CR 15 - L	1,449'	0.4	20.8
21	PASS CAMPBELL RD. - L	1,466'	0.7	21.5
22	PASS CR 17 - R	1,455'	0.9	22.4
23	PASS CR 19 - L	1,538'	1.0	23.4

24	PASS CR 12 - R	1,490'	1.0	24.4
25	PASS CR 79, WINDHAM - R (EAT)	1,522'	1.0	25.4
26	CONT. E ON SR 23	1,522'	-	-
27	PASS CR 21, BROCKET RD. - L	1,549'	0.4	25.8
28	PASS BAGLEY RD. - L	1,608'	0.5	26.3
29	R ON SR 296	1,587'	0.2	26.5
30	PASS CR 12 - R	1,606'	0.3	26.8
31	X CR 65	1,657'	1.2	28.0
32	SR TURNS R IN HENSONVILLE	1,652'	0.2	28.2
33	PASS ROUND HILL RD. - L	1,942'	1.4	29.6
34	PASS CR 14, GOSHEN ST. - R	2,005'	0.4	30.0
35	PASS PECK RD. - R	1,949'	0.6	30.6
36	X CR 23C	1,695'	0.8	31.4
37	X FORD RD. / BEACHER CORS RD.	1,820'	1.0	32.4
38	L AT END ON SR 23A	1,601'	2.1	34.5
39	REACH STARTING POINT	1,624'	0.9	35.4