

## RIDE NO. 14 KICK IT UP A NOTCH OR TWO

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**Mileage = 38.647**

**Elevation Gain = 2,023**

**Category = Moderate**

Here's another Catskill Mountain ride. It's titled *Kick it up a Notch or Two* because it climbs through two notches: Deep Notch outbound and Stony Clove Notch on the return leg. Overall, it's not a difficult ride, though. It has a total elevation gain of 2,023 feet in 38.6 miles, or 52.4 feet per mile on average. Most of the ascending is done on seven miles up the two notches.

The ride starts in the community of Phoenicia in Ulster County. Driving there, take Thruway Exit 20 (Saugerties) and go west on SR 212 through Woodstock (at 8.8 miles) to a right turn on SR 28 in another 11.3 miles. Turn right on Bridge Street in 3.3 miles, watching for the sign *To Phoenicia*. Continue five-tenths of a mile and park on the left just past the place that offers river-tubing rentals.

Leaving Phoenicia on your bike, you go west on SR 28, bearing right on SR 42 in Shandaken at 5.4 miles and passing into Greene County in another three miles. You've started your climb to Deep Notch between the slopes of Halcott Mountain on the left and Balsam Mountain on the right. From the Notch, you have a nice downhill coast to Spruceton Road in the hamlet of West Kill, marked by a flagpole on a small green. It's fairly easy going for the next 13.2 miles to the country store on the left side of SR 23A opposite the entrance to the Hunter Mountain ski area. This is a good place for a lunch stop. The rest will prepare you for the climb to Stony Notch on SR 214, which bisects Hunter and Plateau Mountains, two of the Catskill High Peaks (those with summit elevations of 3,500 feet or more above sea level). Devil's Path, a 23.6-mile hiking trail that surmounts six High Peaks, crosses SR 214 at Stony Clove. Incidentally, Clove is derived from the Dutch word for a cleave or a cleft in a mountain wall. Early Dutch and German settlers believed that the Devil inhabited the Catskills and had favorite haunts. His cloven feet, it was thought, made it possible for him to traverse this steep and sometimes dangerous terrain to which he retreated to avoid people living in the valleys below.

After passing Devil's Tombstone Campsite (named for a large rectangular "tombstone" standing just off the road), you'll have a pleasing  $9\frac{1}{2}$ -mile coast to the point where you started, a drop of 1,444 feet.

START: ON BRIDGE ST. NEAR JCT. OF SR 214 (MAIN ST.), PHOENICIA 862 FT.

1	GO W ON BRIDGE ST. TO IMMED L ON SR 214 (MAIN ST.)		-
2	R AT END ON SR 28	0.3	0.3
3	PASS WOODLAND VALLEY RD. - L 879'	0.6	0.9
4	PASS ERNST RD. - L 934'	1.4	2.3
5	PASS BROADSTREET HOLLOW RD. - R 976'	1.4	3.7
6	PASS PECK HOLLOW RD. - R 996'	1.0	4.7
7	BR ON SR 42 1,050'	0.7	5.4
8	PASS FORD RD. - R 1,230'	1.8	7.2
9	ENTER GREENE COUNTY 1,452'	1.2	8.4
10	PASS SHAFT RD. 1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME - R 1,560'	0.5	8.9
11	CONT. CLIMB TO UM DEEP NOTCH 2,010'	1.8	10.7
12	PASS CR 6, SPRUCETON RD. - R 1,444'	1.9	12.6
13	PASS HOWARD RD., THEN CHAMBERLIN RD. - L 1,432'	1.0	13.6
14	PASS BEECH RIDGE RD. - L 1,374'	0.9	14.5
15	PASS LOUCKS RD. - L 1,332'	1.0	15.5
16	PASS CR 13A, LEXINGTON (DELI. - L) 1,366'	1.0	16.5
17	R ON SR 23A 1,384'	0.4	16.9
18	PASS CR 17 - L 1,428'	2.5	19.4
19	PASS CLOOS RD. - L 1,463'	1.0	20.4
20	PASS CARR RD. - R 1,483'	0.9	21.3

21	PASS WRIGHT RD./FORD HILL RD. - L	1,537'	1.7	23.0
22	PASS DEMING RD. - R	1,544'	0.7	23.7
23	PASS SR 296 - L	1,600'	0.9	24.6
24	R ON CR 83 (ENTR. TO SKI AREA)	1,636'	1.2	25.8
EAT @ COUNTRY STORE ON L SIDE OF SR 23A, OPPOSITE SKI-AREA ENTR.				
25	GO SO. INTO ENTR. TO SKI AREA	1,636'	-	25.8
26	L ON CR 83, SKI BOWL RD.	1,636'	0.1	25.9
27	R ON SR 214	1,735'	1.6	27.5
28	PASS LANE RD. - R	1,847'	1.0	28.5
29	CONT. CLIMB TO UM STONY CLOVE NOTCH	2,295'	0.7	29.2
30	PASS NOTCH INN RD. - L	1,802'	1.8	31.0
31	PASS OSTRANDER RD. - R	1,607'	0.9	31.9
32	PASS DIAMOND NOTCH RD. - R	1,330'	1.7	33.6
33	ENTER ULSTER COUNTY	1,206'	1.5	35.1
34	PASS SILVER HOLLOW RD. - L	1,049'	1.5	36.6
35	PASS FICHTNER RD. - L	952'	0.7	37.3
36	PASS SCHOOL LA. - L	849'	0.9	38.2
37	REACH STARTING POINT	851'	0.4	38.6