

RIDE NO. 2 FIVE COVERED BRIDGES

Mileage = 53

Elevation Gain = approximately 2,700 feet

Category = Moderate

To reach the starting point by car, if you're coming from the Saratoga Springs area, take SR 29 east to its end at SR 22 south of Salem. Turn left and continue into the village. You can park curbside near the intersection with CR 30, just a little before the village's only traffic light.

This ride starts at the same point as the previous ride, the main intersection in the Village of Salem, Washington County, New York, but heads east instead of west. It's a moderately strenuous ride, with total elevation gain of about 2,700 feet in 53 miles. The grade for the first 10½ miles is gradual and hardly noticeable. Then comes the toughest part of the ride, a 521-foot climb to the crest of a ridge in the next eight-tenths of a mile, an average grade of 12.3%. You know you've reached the top when you pass the entrance to Merck Forest (a nice place to hike when you're not riding your bike). Your effort is then rewarded with a downhill rush of over two miles. Turning south, now in Bennington County, you pass through the upscale communities of Dorset and Manchester. From there you follow River Road along the Batten Kill and then Sunderland Hill Road to Chiselville Bridge over Roaring Brook, a tributary of the Batten Kill. This is the first of the five covered bridges that give the ride its name. Reaching Historic Route 7A in Arlington, at the 32.6-mile point you pass a Stewart's Shop on the right, a good place for a refreshment stop. In a short distance you turn west on SR 313, following the Batten Kill again, cutting through the ridge you had to climb earlier. No climbing this time. While the cue sheet doesn't show it, at six-tenths of a mile after turning off SR 7A, you have an option. Instead of following the route shown, you can turn left on River Road, which starts out paved, cross the Batten Kill on a small bridge and follow the now unpaved road for about five miles to the point where it rejoins SR 313. This is a very scenic detour if you don't mind riding on a dirt road. It's usually in good shape. If you stay on SR 313, at the 36.9-mile point you pass the West Arlington covered bridge on your left. If you take River Road, it'll be on your right since the two roads follow the Batten Kill on opposite sides. The house that Norman Rockwell called home for a number of years before moving to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, is on River Road at the foot of the covered bridge road. If you've taken SR 313, you can cross the bridge to the house, which is just a short distance beyond. Rockwell's studio is a separate building in the yard of his home, visible from the road. Continuing from the junction of River Road and SR 313 and crossing back into Washington County, at the 43.6-mile point you turn onto Eagleville Road to cross the Eagleville covered bridge over the Batten Kill, again. About two miles farther along, you pass the hamlet of Shushan and cross the Batten Kill yet again, on a steel-deck bridge paralleling the old covered bridge that is now part of a museum open on a limited basis. In another 3.7 miles, you cross the last of the five covered bridges, the Rexleigh bridge over – you guessed it – the Batten Kill before returning to Salem.

2 FIVE COVERED BRIDGES

<u>START: JCT. OF RT. 22 & CR 153, SALEM, NY</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>GO E ON CR 153</u>	<u>490'</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>REACH VERMONT LINE</u>	<u>669'</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>5.4</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>STR8 ON CR 315 (CR 153 GOES L)</u>	<u>858'</u>	<u>2.9</u>	<u>8.3</u>

4	PASS PAULET MT. RD. - L (2.9%)	956'	0.6	8.9
5	PASS WATROUS RD. - R (2.3%)	1,175'	1.7	10.6
6	PASS ENTR. TO MERCK FOREST (12.3%)	1,696'	0.8	11.4
7	R ON WEST RD. @ JCT. W/RT.30	832'	2.4	13.8
8	MERGE ONTO RT. 30	888'	5.0	18.8
9	BEAR R ON WEST RD.	889'	0.4	19.2
10	MERGE ONTO RT. 7A	883'	3.4	22.6
11	L ON RIVER RD.	861'	0.4	23.0
12	BL ON SUNDERLAND HILL RD. (HILL FARM HILL RD.-R)	665'	4.8	27.8
13	REACH HI PT,JUST PAST BACON HOLLOW RD.- L	914'	1.6	29.4
14	GO THRU CHISELVILLE COVERED BRIDGE	763'	1.1	30.5
15	BR ON EAST ARLINGTON RD.	725'	0.9	31.4
16	R ON RT. 7A	651'	1.1	32.5
17	STEWART'S ON R	648'	0.1	32.6
18	CONT. ON SR 7A TO L ON SR 313	648'	0.1	32.7
19	PASS BENEDICT CROSSING - L	595'	2.7	35.4
20	PASS W. ARLINGTON (ROCKWELL) COVERED BRIDGE	L605'	1.5	36.9
21	PASS RIVER RD. - L	561'	1.9	38.8
22	PASS NY STATE LINE	548'	0.8	39.6
23	PASS CR 61 (TO SHUSHAN)	610'	2.5	42.1
24	R ON EAGLEVILLE RD.	560'	1.5	43.6
25	GO THRU EAGLEVILLE COVERED BRIDGE & BEAR R	496'	0.3	43.9
26	L ON CR 61	566'	0.9	44.8
27	PASS CR 64 - L (IN SHUSHAN)	494'	1.0	45.8
28	L ON CR 61 (CR 64A STR8), X BRIDGE	492'	0.2	46.0
	(SHUSHAN COVERED BRIDGE & MUSEUM ON R)			
29	R ON UM STANTON RD.	662'	0.6	46.6
	CLIMB TO	806'		
30	R AT END ON REXLEIGH RD.	628'	2.5	49.1
31	GO THRU REXLEIGH COVERED BRIDGE	442'	0.6	49.7
32	R ON RT. 22	456'	1.2	50.9
33	REACH STARTING POINT	490'	2.0	52.9