

## RIDE NO. 9      HOWES CAVE RIDE

**Mileage = 38.6**

**Elevation Gain = 2,272 feet**

**Category = Moderate**

For our next ride we turn to the beautiful Schoharie Creek Valley in Schoharie, NY. You'll really enjoy this 40-mile figure-8 ride involving total elevation gain of 2,272 feet. The crossing point in the figure-8 is in Middleburgh (cue sheet line 18). If you need to cut the ride short for some reason, when you get there you could go to line 30 and head north on SR 30, returning to the starting point. This would reduce the ride's distance by 15 miles, but would eliminate some very scenic cycling.

The ride gets its name from the miles it follows Howe Cave Road, passing through the hardly-noticeable hamlet of Howes Cave, with the well-known Howe Caverns not far away.

While almost all the ride is scenic, there are two sections that call for special mention. After turning onto SR 145 from SR 7, line 11 (MSL elevation 981 feet), you climb gradually in 2.6 miles to an elevation of 1,300 feet (line 14). From that high point there is a more or less constant 4.4-mile downhill run to the intersection with SR 30 outside Middleburgh, line 17, elevation 692 feet. This gets your jacket flapping, but you won't be going so fast that you can't take your eyes off the road to enjoy the really great view of the valley.

As you near SR 30 on SR 145, you get your first view of Vroman's Nose on the right. This is a unique glacially-formed hill that rises gracefully from the north and west and drops precipitously on its southern side. It's under the protection of a conservancy that maintains trails to the summit. There's a trailhead on West Middleburgh Road (line 28), which is just south of the junction of SRs 145 and 30. A half-mile hike through the forest, involving about 300 feet of ascent, rewards you with a superb view of the Schoharie Valley. You'll have more views of Vroman's Nose later in the ride.

After a refreshment stop at Stewart's in Middleburgh (line 19), you go south on Clauverwie Road for about seven miles to SR 30 in Breakabeen. Clauverwie is a scenic, winding, paved country road with especially good views of Vroman's Nose and the other hills west of the Valley.

Reaching the end of Clauverwie Road (line 24), you have an option not shown on the cue sheet. If you turn left and go south on SR 30 for about four miles to Blenheim, you can visit the World's longest covered single-span wooden bridge, built in 1855 to cross Schoharie Creek. It's no longer used, but visitors can inspect and walk through it from its east portal, reachable by way of a side road on the left off SR 30 going south. The side road is just before the steel-truss bridge that now carries SR 30 over the Creek.

After the bridge tour, you backtrack on SR 30 to Breakabeen and pick up the ride at line 24. You follow SR 30 north through Middleburgh and the Village of Schoharie, where there's another Stewart's if you'd like some ice cream before returning to your car.

START: PARK &amp; RIDE, SR 30A JUST S OF I-88 EXIT 23

1	GO N ON SR 30A	628'	-	-
2	L ON SRs 7 / 30A	681'	0.5	0.5
3	R ON SR 30A	632'	1.1	1.6
4	UNDER RR BRIDGE	627'	0.5	2.1
5	SHARP L ON N. MAIN ST.	636'	0.1	2.2
6	BECOMES HOWE CAVE RD.	703'	0.6	2.8
7	L AT END ON UM SAGENDORF RD.	893'	2.1	4.9
8	R ON CR 8, HOWE CAVE RD.	777'	0.2	5.1
9	L AT END ON CR 8, CAVERNS RD.	804'	1.1	6.2
10	R ON SR 7	804'	0.4	6.6
11	L ON SR 145	981'	1.2	7.8
12	PASS CR 41, ECKER HOLLOW RD. - R	1,092'	1.2	9.0
13	PASS CR 1A - L	1,182'	0.5	9.5
14	PASS KEYSER RD. - R	1,300'	0.9	10.4
15	PASS CR 41, ECKER HOLLOW RD. - R	797'	2.3	12.7
16	PASS CR 57, SUNNY SIDE RD. - L	702'	0.8	13.5
17	L ON SRs 30 / 145	692'	1.3	14.8
18	X BRIDGE, BR ON SR 145 (SR 30 GOES L)	692'	0.1	14.9
19	STEWART'S ON L	696'	0.2	15.1
20	L ON SR 145, IMMED. R ON CR 36, CLAUVERWIE RD.	692'	-	15.1
21	PASS BOUCKS HOLLOW RD. - L	1,042'	3.4	18.5
22	PASS ARMLIN HILL RD. - L	1,093'	2.3	20.8
23	PASS KEYSER HILL RD. - L (NOW CR 17)	1,058'	0.3	21.1
24	R ON SR 30, BREAKABEEN	794'	1.1	22.2
25	PASS CR 4 - L	734'	1.3	23.5
26	PASS PLEASANT VALLEY RD. - L	705'	2.0	25.5
27	PASS HARDSCRABBLE RD. - L	705'	1.2	26.7
28	PASS RD. "TO VROMAN'S NOSE" - L	706'	2.4	29.1
29	SR 145 JOINS FROM L	692'	0.7	29.8
30	L ON SR 30 (CR 145 GOES STR8)	692'	0.1	29.9
31	R ON MIDDLEFORT ST.	669'	0.4	30.3

32	BR AT END ON SR 30	663'	0.5	30.8
33	PASS BOUCK RD. - R	699'	2.2	33.0
34	X STONY BROOK RD.	685'	1.2	34.2
35	PASS CR 1A, BRIDGE ST. - L	633'	1.0	35.2
36	PASS JOHNSON AVE (STEWART'S) - L	644'	0.4	35.6
37	PASS SR 433 - R	636'	1.1	36.7
38	BL ON SR 30A	676'	1.2	37.9
39	REACH STARTING POINT	628'	0.7	38.6