

# Desperado Dual Ride Report - September 2004

**By: Joe Garza**



The first 100 mile loop started @ 0630 under pretty dark and colder-than-expected conditions. After the mayor of Panguitch fired the starting shot we were off for a gradual climb of seven miles and turned left to climb red canyon up to the entrance of Bryce Canyon. I had the distinct pleasure of riding most of the first 100 with the one-and-only Chris Kostman of AdventureCORPS/RAAM fame. It was a pretty flat and easy trip and seemed to go by very quickly. Support stops were placed just right and were well-stocked.

After stopping for lunch and to reapply some "minty fresh" (Assos chamois cream) the climbing started in earnest as we left Panguitch. The grade was pretty steep from the get go and didn't really let up until the left turn onto Mammoth Creek road. A welcome length of downhill ended with another support stop and started the next set of climbs. These were steeper and longer than I had expected but ended just in time for the left turn onto highway 14 and down to highway 89. After a gradual downhill it was a left turn to Alton and the last support stop.



One thing that was noticed by a few was how many people who intended to ride the double ended up throwing in the towel at lunch and just doing the first 100 mile loop. They missed out on some awesome riding but I can't blame them considering what a nice day it was.

Lessons learned for next year include:

Warmer clothes, especially gloves and wind shell.

Take whatever steps necessary to reduce road vibration. My aluminum GT bike transferred every little pebble and bump up into my body. Consider running lower tire pressure, a magnesium stem, suspension seat post gel bar tape/gloves, etc.

Use CO2 for repairing flats. I got one seven miles from the finish and was already very tired. By the time I got done pumping my tire up to just 65 PSI I was really exhausted and blew my goal for a sub-12. I would have killed for a CO2 inflator. Consider a pump for backup.

As always, drink way more than you think you need. No matter how well you think you are doing reality has a way of hitting you at the worst possible time. Make time to drink and eat. Then have some more.



Stay at the Best Western in Panguitch. They have a huge, clean Jacuzzi that feels oh-so-good after a full day on the road.

I highly recommend doing this event. Great scenery, support and a nice escape from the heat.

All for now,

Joe Garza