

Garden Creek Gap Road Race May 26th

Mark Zimbelman:

The Masters 45+ field included 24 riders total and six riders from Bountiful Mazda: Don Armstrong, Scott Bales, Don Bowen, Jerald Hunsaker, Mike MacDonald, Bob Walker and Mark Zimbelman. Soon after the race began, Don Armstrong stayed true to form and, with a vicious attack, he broke away from the peleton with two other racers. After a few miles, the peleton regrouped and we climbed the first of three times up the three mile 4-9% grade hill whose summit eventually be our finish line. Jerald set a blazing pace up the climb and spread the peleton over the mountain before reaching the top. Fortunately, the first four to make it over included three Bountiful Mazda riders: Jerald, Don Armstrong and Mark Zimbelman. We quickly formed a rotation and went hard for the rest of the race. Fortunately, we were never caught by chasing riders even after waiting several minutes due to a herd of cattle in the road and a blown tire on Don Armstrong's bike. At the end of the day, we captured six of the top ten placings including 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th and 10th. The teammates in the 45+ races are working well together and learning how to become even more competitive with each race. Most importantly, we are having a lot of fun too!

Stephen Tueller:

With significant damage being done by the Bountiful Mazda 45+ team, it was time for the 35+ to deliver the bomb. Riding an additional lap for a total of 83 miles would test the resolve of Gary, Zan, Dan, Jeff and Steve. Right off the bat, Dan set a blistering pace up the gap nearly popping the rest of us off, though everyone quickly formed up after cresting. Shortly thereafter, and in traditional Jeff style, he and Andrew Lock threw down and got off the front while the rest of the group chased (with no help from the BM riders☺). Dan pulled up with a flat on the second lap, and unfortunately our wheel car was in front of us attempting to clear the cattle off the road so it took him a while to get a replacement. Jeff and Andrew were eventually absorbed by the rest of the group and it quickly became apparent that no break would be successful, but rather this would be an old fashioned "wild west shootout" up the Gap to the finish---perfectly suited for Bountiful Mazda! On the third and final lap, the entire group was fully invested in saving as much energy as possible for the final push, and having been reconstituted, Jeff made one, final solo up hill move with approximately 5 miles to go. The gutsy move was nearly perfectly timed, but fell short as the group surged several times to catch him with less than 1K to go. Steve popped ¾ up the gap. With Gary banging his customary big gear and Zan spinning furiously, both launched at the 200 meter mark. Gary was surely set to take the race, but the crafty Craig Kidd of ICE snuck by on the inside over the last several meters to take the win. The final battle damage, though, was impressive: Gary 2nd, Zan 3rd, Jeff 6th and Steve 8th. Sam Krieg put on a great event and Bountiful Mazda delivered. I'm still finding cow poop on my helmet, shoes and bike bag....

Finally, Gary Simmons added to the overall team points in the 55+, slugging it out with Ken Louder up the gap to finish 2nd! What people didn't know was that Gary drove from his campsite in the Uintas to make the Gap gig---now that's commitment. Congratulations to all!

Results can be found at: http://www.idahocycling.com/events/garden-ck-gap/2007/results/GardenCr_results_07.pdf

Photos can also be found at the following site:

<http://anthemphotoworks.com/events/index.asp?ee=2441&pp=194515>