



## *Assault on the Carolinas*

*By Roy Peche*



This ride was held on March 24, 2007 in Brevard, N.C.

Yahoo maps estimated the drive time of 2 hrs. 23 minutes. So we left Gastonia at 6:00a.m. After a stop at Hardee's for a preride fuel stop of a pork chop biscuit we arrived in Brevard at 8:30.

After check-in and pre-ride bike set-up Nancy and I rode the 60 km. Route.

The weather was a beautiful spring day in the 60's at the start, warming to the mid 70's at the finish. This was a beautiful course with 5241 feet of climbing (according to the Garmin GP). One climb was 33 per cent grade. Whee!! We had a maximum speed of 39.5 M.P.H. with an average speed of 14.0 M.P.H.

Afterwards we were treated to a delicious lunch of pasta and salad. We heard a rumor that a rider didn't make a curve and left the road at 47 M.P.H. We sure hope they're doing fine.

We would recommend this ride for anyone wanting to get some early season climbing in.

*Roy Peche*  
*Posted 3/2007*  
[repeach50@yahoo.com](mailto:repeach50@yahoo.com)

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**The event** has three featured rides that are fully supported with well-stocked rest stops and bathroom facilities. All rides start and finish at Brevard High School. Riders can choose between the 100K ( 65.8 miles), 60K (37 miles), and 40K (25 miles) options.

Each of the rides offers wonderful scenery, traffic support at major intersections, and well marked courses. All rides begin at 9:00am and follow the same course for approximately 9 miles.

**The 40K** goes through the scenic river valleys of Transylvania County and features some rolling hills and great scenery. This ride has 1 rest stop.

**The 60K** riders will get to test their climbing abilities on Walnut Hollow, which is a local favorite. Walnut hollow is a steep challenging climb that is sure to get everyone's heart pumping. The climb is 1.1 mile with grades reaching 15%. After climbing Walnut Hollow riders will enjoy a nice rolling ride home through the French Broad River Valley. The 60k has 2 fully stocked rest stops.

**The 100K** has everything from: flats, rolling hills, the Walnut Hollow climb, fast descents, and a grueling 6-mile climb up Caesar's Head near the North Carolina-South Carolina border. This ride will take you through the river valleys of Transylvania County, up Walnut Hollow, and up and over Hwy 178. Hwy 178 offers some amazing descents, with miles of curves, that will be enjoyed by all who ride the course. Once riders cross Hwy 11 in SC they will ride rolling hills and some flat sections where many pace lines of varying abilities form. When riders reach the bottom of Caesar's Head they begin a challenging 6 mile climb to the top. Once over Caesar's head it's @ 15 miles back to Brevard High School with more descents, flats, and a ride back through the river valley. This ride has 5 rest stops. (<http://www.assaultonthecarolinas.com/home.html>)

