



47th Mt. Graham Hill Climb

Arizona State Hill Climb Championship

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Safford, Arizona 85546

HELD UNDER USA CYCLING EVENT PERMIT NUMBER 2026-Pending



Sponsored and hosted by: TEAM AGGRESS!



Race Director:

Edward "Nippy" Feldhake III

5601 East Scarlett Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

(520) 747-2544

nippy-mr-smarty-pants@juno.com



Very heartfelt thanks to Joey Iuliano, President of ABRA for obtaining a grant to pay for the additional 1 million dollar general aggregate insurance required by the ADOT risk management director. The cost of the additional 1 million dollar general aggregate insurance through USA Cycling is \$1950.

The 47th Mt. Graham Hill Climb will be a mass start event for the 20-mile and 10-mile distances with the pre-race get together in the parking area. The mass start will travel up hill on Arizona State Route 366 from mile post 151.

Mt. Graham is located in the southeastern corner of Arizona. Mt. Graham draws riders each year to a spectacular event. The 20-mile road race starts @ mile post 115.1 at an elevation of 3,379 feet & winds up the "Swift Trail" (State Route 366) to the finish at mile post 135.1 near the Snow Flat camp ground at an elevation of 9,068. The 5,689 ft. climb travels through high desert grassland, oak woodlands, & alpine meadow to end up in a pine forest! Mt. Graham is the longest continuous bicycle race in Arizona in its 46th year & the 3rd highest elevation gain one-day race in the United States.

Due to the shortage of volunteers, in 2025 there were 3 total, the following item will be cut or pared back. Numbers will not be mailed out due to the high cost of postage!

If you know anyone who can volunteer on race day, please get in touch with me.

I will post race number on the Mt Graham web page, it will be updated weekly, and Bike Reg registered page will have the race number for each cyclist. To pick up your race number there will be a "NUMBER pick-up" table near the Mt Graham Observatory Office with binder by race distance and gender. All you will have to do is walk up look in the binder and take your number. Your name is on the back of the number.

ONE DAY LICENSE holder will have to see me and pay for the "one-day" License in order to get their number. Payment must be in the form of check or cash only for one-day license.

There MAY NOT BE a vehicle that will be able to take any clothes to the top. ASK on Race Day! Be prepared if there is not a vehicle to take clothing to the top.

Cyclist needing rides down the mountain after the race WILL have to find a ride themselves! Check with other racer before the event. I may have only one vehicle going to the top so there will be no room coming down!

FREE food will be available at rest area past the finish line!

First rider's finishing time will be around 9:30 am. Last rider finishing time will be around 11:00 AM. Those riders choosing to ride down the mountain will return to the parking area around 12:00 noon!



20 MILE RACE WILL START AT 8:00 AM.
10 MILE RACE WILL START AT 8:10 AM.

WEB PAGE ADDRESS :

[HTTP://presteza.homestead.com/MtGrahamIndex.html](http://presteza.homestead.com/MtGrahamIndex.html)

REGISTRATION:

Registration will take place on bikereg.com

On-line registration web address:

<https://www.bikereg.com/47th-mt-graham-hill-climb>

ON-LINE Registration opens on July 4, 2026 and will closes on WEDNESDAY, September 16, 2026 at 8:00 PM Arizona Time!

Mail in Registration

1. Nippy Feldhake 5601 East Scarlett Street Tucson, Arizona 85711
2. Make checks out to Presteza Cycling Club! Phone (520) 747-2544

FEES FOR 2026

Before September 1, 2026

1. Juniors \$ 45.00
2. All other Categories \$ 80.00 (Seniors Categories and Master)

After September 1, 2026

1. Juniors \$ 50.00
2. All other Categories \$ 85.00 (Seniors Categories and Masters)

Day before Race at Best Western Hotel on September 19, 2025:

1. Juniors categories \$ 50.00
2. All others Categories \$ 90.00 (Seniors Categories and Master)

RACE DAY September 20, 2025:

1. Juniors categories \$ 50.00
2. All others Categories \$ 100.00 (Seniors Categories and Master)



Registration (Day Before) September 19, 2026:

Registration will be in Safford at the Best Western Desert Inn Motel – Saturday 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Address of the Best Western Desert Inn is 1391 Thatcher Blvd. Safford, Arizona. Phone 928-428-0521

Registration (Race Day): September 20, 2026

Registration will be in Mt. Graham International Observatory Safford Base Camp parking lot: The address is 1480 West State Route 366 Safford Arizona 85546. From 7:00 AM to 7:30 AM. No real early birds. Let us get set up, please!

Fees include USA Cycling \$5.99 surcharge for insurance! Promoter pays this fee to USA Cycling!

USA Cycling Licenses

1. All riders must have a USA Cycling License to be a participant in Mt. Graham Hill Climb
2. USA Cycling annual & one-day licenses will be on sale during registration (day before & race day!)
3. One-day USA Cycling license is either \$15.00 or \$35.00.
4. USA Cycling annual license will also be available at registration. Only annual licensed riders are eligible for State championship medals and State Jersey per USA Cycling rules.

Riding Down-THE RACE IS UP THE MOUNTAIN NOT DOWN!!!

You may ride your bikes down Mt. Graham however extreme care needs to be taken when riding down the mountain! Helmets are required. The race is up the mountain NOT DOWN! Riders wanting a ride in a vehicle down the mountain ask at the start before the race OR AT THE FINISH AREA!

Race Day Parking!!!! (New since 2024)!!!

Parking will now be in the Mt. Graham International Observatory Safford Base Camp area. The address is 1480 West State Route 366 Safford Arizona 85546. The parking area is on the right side of Sr 366 just across the road from the Main Entrance to the Federal Prison.

The port-a-johns will be placed in the North-West corner in the second lot.

The gate will be unlocked at 6:15 AM on Sunday so no reason to get there super early.

We will be sharing the lot with the Mt. Graham Observatory staff so we can not block any vehicle as they may have to go to the top of Mt. Graham. Volunteers will NOT be directing you to where to park!! Not everyone can park in the first parking space next the entrance. If you are bringing a “trainer” to warm up on, Please put the “trainer” behind your vehicle not on the side of the vehicle.

There MAY NOT BE a vehicle that will be able to take any clothes to the top. ASK on Race Day! Be prepared if there is not a vehicle to take clothing to the top.

ALL RACERS MUST BE IN THE PARKING AREA AT 7:45 AM SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THE FOLLOWING: The national anthem and the prayer and “call up” of categories to line up in the parking lot. There will be a “neutral” start from the parking area to Mile Post 151.1 (the start).

The officials will be the lead vehicle for the race.



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	<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>	
1.	Men's Pro	20 MILES	
2.	Senior Men Category 1	20 MILES	
3.	Senior Men Category 2	20 MILES	
4.	Under 23 (Espoires)	20 MILES	
5.	Senior Men Category 3	20 MILES	
6.	Senior Men Category 4	20 MILES	
7.	Senior Novice Men (Formally Cat 5)	20 MILES	
8.	Women's Pro	20 MILES	
9.	Senior Women Category 1	20 MILES	
10.	Senior Women Category 2	20 MILES	
11.	Senior Women Category 3	20 MILES	
12.	Senior Women Category 4	20 MILES	
13.	Senior Novice Women (Formally Cat 5)	20 MILES	
14.	Master Men 35 to 39	20 MILES	
15.	Master Men 40 to 44	20 MILES	
16.	Master Men 45 to 49	20 MILES	
17.	Master Men 50 to 54	20 MILES	
18.	Master Men 55 to 59	20 MILES	
19.	Master Men 60 to 64	10 OR 20 MILES	
20.	Master Men 65 to 69	10 OR 20 MILES	
21.	Master Men 70 to 74	10 OR 20 MILES	
22.	Master Men 75 + (into 5yr age group)	10 OR 20 MILES	
23.	Master Woman 35 to 39	20 MILES	
24.	Master Woman 40 to 44	20 MILES	
25.	Master Woman 45 to 49	20 MILES	
26.	Master Woman 50 to 54	10 OR 20 MILES	
27.	Master Woman 55 to 59	10 OR 20 MILES	
28.	Master Woman 60 to 64	10 OR 20 MILES	
29.	Master Woman 65 to 69	10 OR 20 MILES	
30.	Master Woman 70 + (into 5yr age group)	10 OR 20 MILES	
31.	All Tandem Men	20 MILES	
32.	All Tandem Mixed	20 MILES	
33.	All Tandem Women	20 MILES	
34.	Juniors 11 to 12 (Men or Woman)	10 MILES ONLY	See Note on Next Page
35.	Juniors 13 to 14 (Men or Woman)	10 MILES ONLY	See Note on Next Page
36.	Juniors 15 to 16 (Men or Woman)	10 MILES ONLY	See Note on Next Page
37.	Juniors 17 to 18 (Men or Woman)	10 OR 20 MILES	See Note on Next Page



JUNIOR RACERS: (ALL) :

Per the USA CYCLING RULE BOOK: JUNIOR RACE FOR NATIONAL AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP NOW START AT AGE 11 TO AGE 18.

THE RACE DIRECTOR HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT AN ADULT RIDER FOLLOW, BEHIND THE JUNIOR, UP THE MOUNTAIN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE JUNIOR RIDER.

ALL JUNIOR RACERS AGE 16 AND UNDER MUST RACE THE 10-MILE DISTANCE ONLY. NO EXCEPTION NO MATTER WHAT CATEGORY/RANKING THE JUNIOR HOLDS.

ALL JUNIOR RACERS AGE 17 AND OLDER MUST BE A CATEGORY 3 OR ABOVE TO ENTER THE 20-MILE DISTANCE. ALL JUNIOR RACERS AGE 17 AND OLDER THAT ARE CATEGORY 4/5 MUST RACE THE 10-MILE DISTANCE. NO EXCEPTION!

IT IS HIGHLY SUGGESTED THAT ALL JUNIORS RACERS AGE 16 AND UNDER DO NOT RIDE FROM MILE POST 125 TO MILE POST 135. THIS IS A SAFETY CONCERN FOR ALL YOUNG RIDERS!

AWARDS

- 1. AWARDS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, September 20, 2026 after the race! The location is in the Graham County General Services Building. The building is located at 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford, Arizona 85546. The entrance to the room is in the behind the main building. Room is expected to be open around 11:30 PM. Awards will start once all have eaten and the results have been driven down from the top of Mt. Graham by the officials.**
- 2. This is officially the Arizona State USA Cycling Hill Climb Championship Race. Each winner of all categories and age groups winner will receive the Arizona State Championship jersey. The race director pays for the jerseys.**
- 3. USA Cycling State medals will be awarded to the first three cyclists in each category & age group for Arizona licensed cyclists. They are Gold, Silver & Bronze medals.**
- 4. Per the USA Cycling rule book, only those riders that have an ANNUAL license are eligible for the state championship title! ONE-DAY LICENSE RIDERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE STATE JERSEY OR MEDAL!**
- 5. Only Arizona State Annual licensed riders are eligible for the Arizona State Championship Jersey.**
- 6. Break a Mt. Graham record and receive an "Official Mt. Graham Record"!**

SPECIAL THANKS:

A very special thanks to the following, they make this race possible> All Nippy's family, Marty, Don Lash, Broadway Bikes, Team Aggress, ADOT, Graham County Supervisors, Graham County Sheriff Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), US Forest Service, Mt. Graham International Observatory Safford Base Camp, Best Western Inn, Scarborough Pumping and Plumbing, Eastern Arizona Courier, former Mt. Graham race director Al Hopper, former webmaster Jay Schreiber, photographer Kathleen Drier and all past volunteers!



Host Hotel:

Best Western Desert Inn
1391 Thatcher Blvd. Safford, Arizona
1-800-707-2336 or (928) 428-0521

Ask for the Mt. Graham Hill Climb Special!

There are two Best Western motels in Safford. I use Best Western Desert Inn NOT Best Western Plus!

Breakfast served from 6 AM to 10 AM. Check with the front desk for more details!

ROOM RATES: \$ 99.99 + tax for Mt. Graham Hill Climb!

Rooms have the one of the following One King or One Queen Bed or for Two Queen Beds!

LATE CHECK OUT for all riders is 1:00 PM. Just let the front desk know you are with the bike race!

Camping:

ROPER STATE PARK: Park is 2 miles from start line. Amenities include showers, indoor toilets, RV hookups and ramadas. For rates, call (928) 428-6760. Follow brown colored state park signage off Hwy 191! Address 101 E. Roper Lake Road Safford, Arizona 85546.

Web page is <https://azstateparks.com/reserve/#!park/21>

Other Camping! Camping on Mt. Graham!

There is camping on Mt. Graham! One is at milepost 124.5 at the US Forest Service Camp Ground Arcadia. The other is Snow Flats at milepost 135! The fee is \$20.00 per day per campsite.

Web Page is <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/coronado/recarea/?recid=25576>

Kathleen Dreier Photography





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MOST INSPIRATION CYCLIST!

Each year I chose a male and female cyclist as the Most Inspirational Cyclist!

If you know someone who deserves this award e-mail Nippy at nippy-mr-smarty-pants@juno.com.

Past Recipients!

1999 Al Hopper	2000 Vern Roberts
2001 Jeannie Longo & Don Melhado	2002 Scott Price
2003 Rebecca Cooke & Ken Stamm	2004 Steve Walters (In Memory)
2005 Herb Johnson & Adrianna Brian	2006 Maggie Williams & Dave Deichman
2007 Marlene Zuhl & Dwight Nelson	2008 Christina Carbone & Kerry Farrell
2009 Tammy Lamb & Jesus Lamb	2010 Jay Schreiber
2010 Colleen Whealdon-Haught (In Memory)	2011 Franz Hammer & Catherine Dickerson
2012 Reg Dowell & Martha Stedman	2013 Alisha Welch & Darien Newman
2014 Luis Chacon & Joanna Roberts	2015 Larry Smith & Deborah Robison (In Memory both)
2016 Lisa Crujido & Joey Iuliano	2017 Nathalie Potvin & Gustavo "Gus" Amado
2018 John Conahay (In Memory) & Shelby Hoglund	2019 Richard Horn & Cathi Stevens
2020 Joel Thompson & Lauren Frisk	2021 Elizabeth Perry & Jeremy Barrett (In Memory)
2022 Ron Sweet & Leslie O'Doherty (In Memory)	2023 Barbara & Ted Frohling
2024 David Swain & Lee Marvin	2025 Allan Fisher & Jo Roberts

THIS YEAR 2026 MOST INSPIRATIONAL CYCLISTS WILL BE?

Looking for suggestions! Email me!!!!

BIKE SHOPS SUPPORTING THIS RACE!

BROADWAY BIKES

140 S Sarnoff Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85710
(520) 296-7819



PIMA STREET BICYCLE

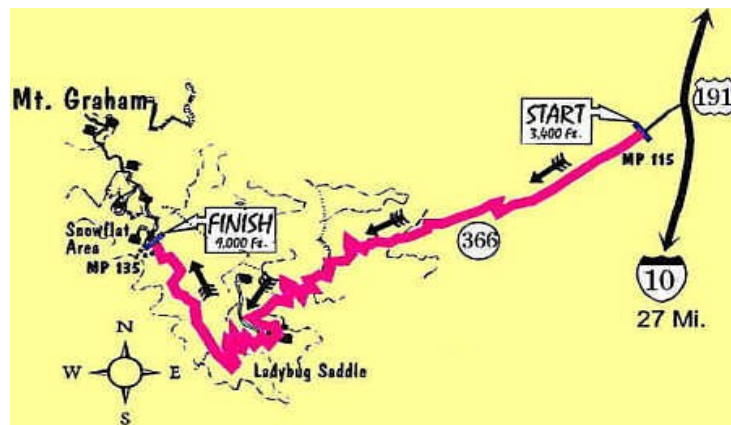
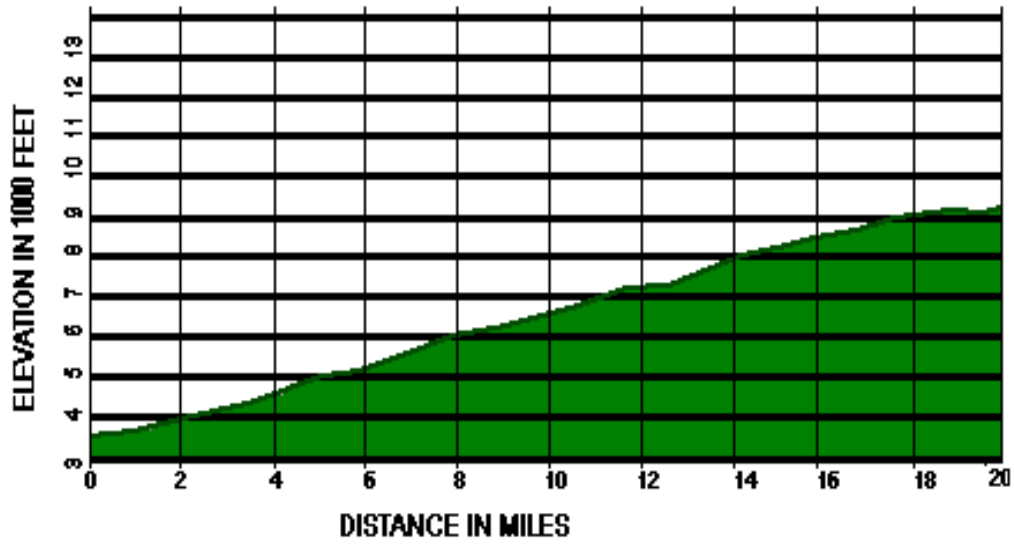
3400 East Speedway Suite 103
Tucson, Arizona 85716
(520) 326-4044





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PROFILE





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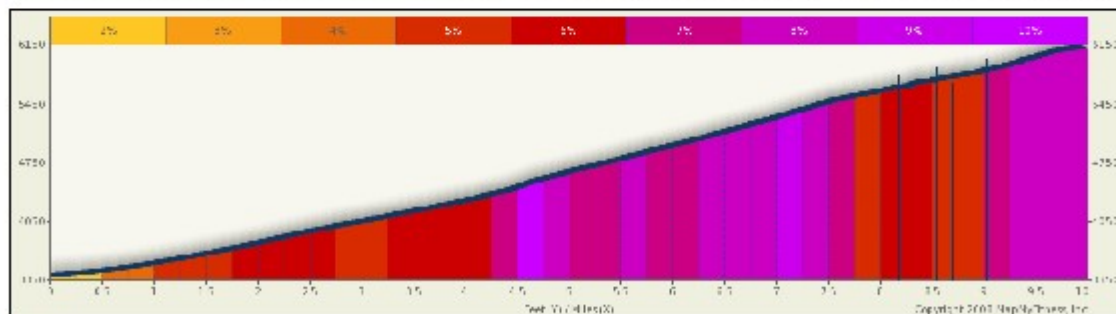
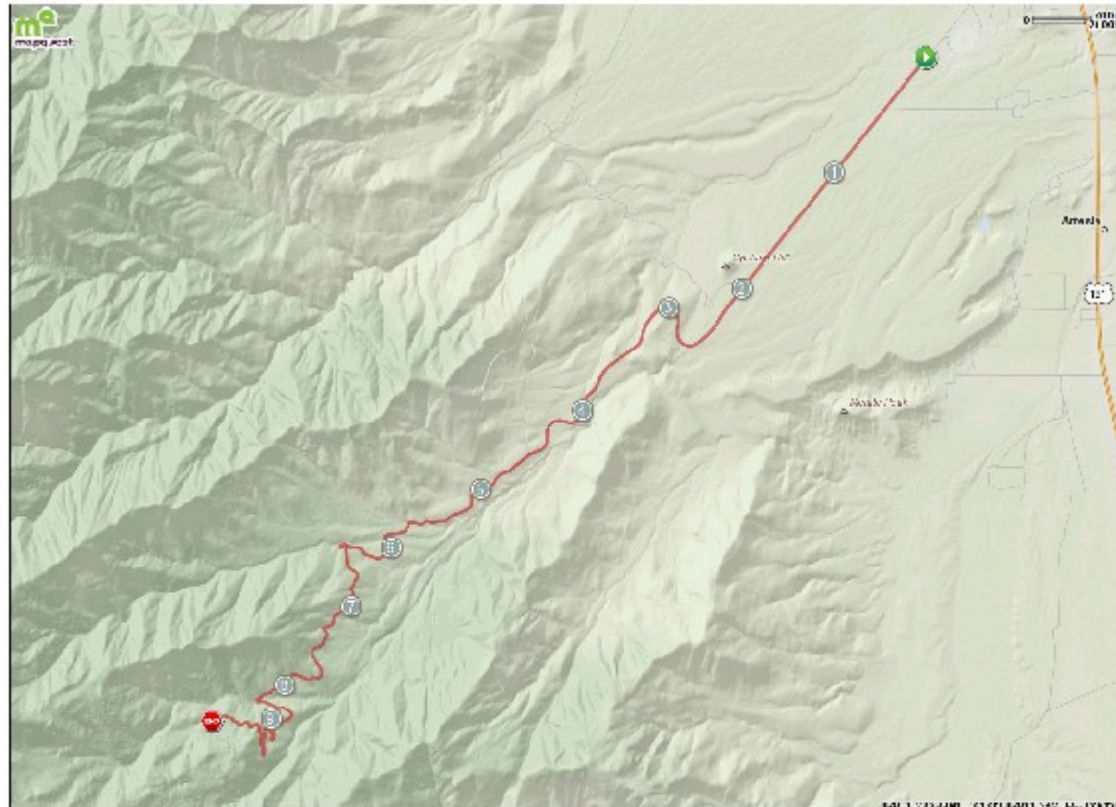
MAPS 10-mile event



Mt. Graham Hill Climb 10 Mile Event

Starts in Safford, Arizona

10.00 miles

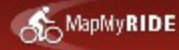


Description
Mt. Graham Hill Climb 10 Mile event starting at mile post 115.1 on Arizona State Route 366 South of Safford Arizona and ending at mile post 125.1. Start just past the upper prison parking area. The route is the Mt. Graham Hill Climb which is the Arizona State Hill Climb Championship. This is a road bike event not a mountain bike event.



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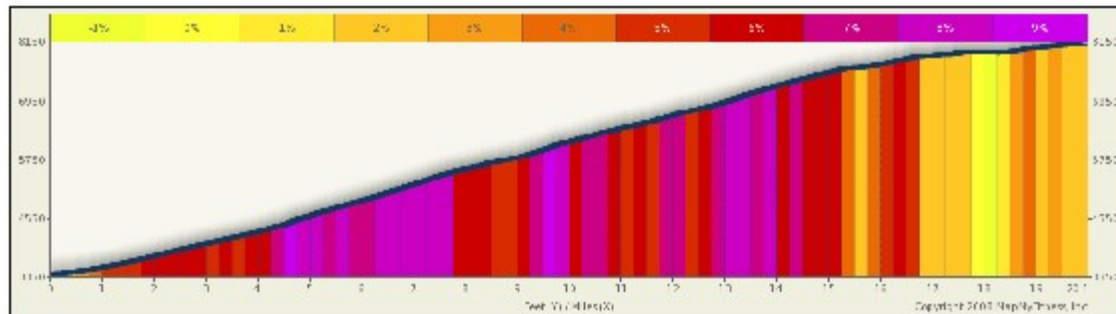
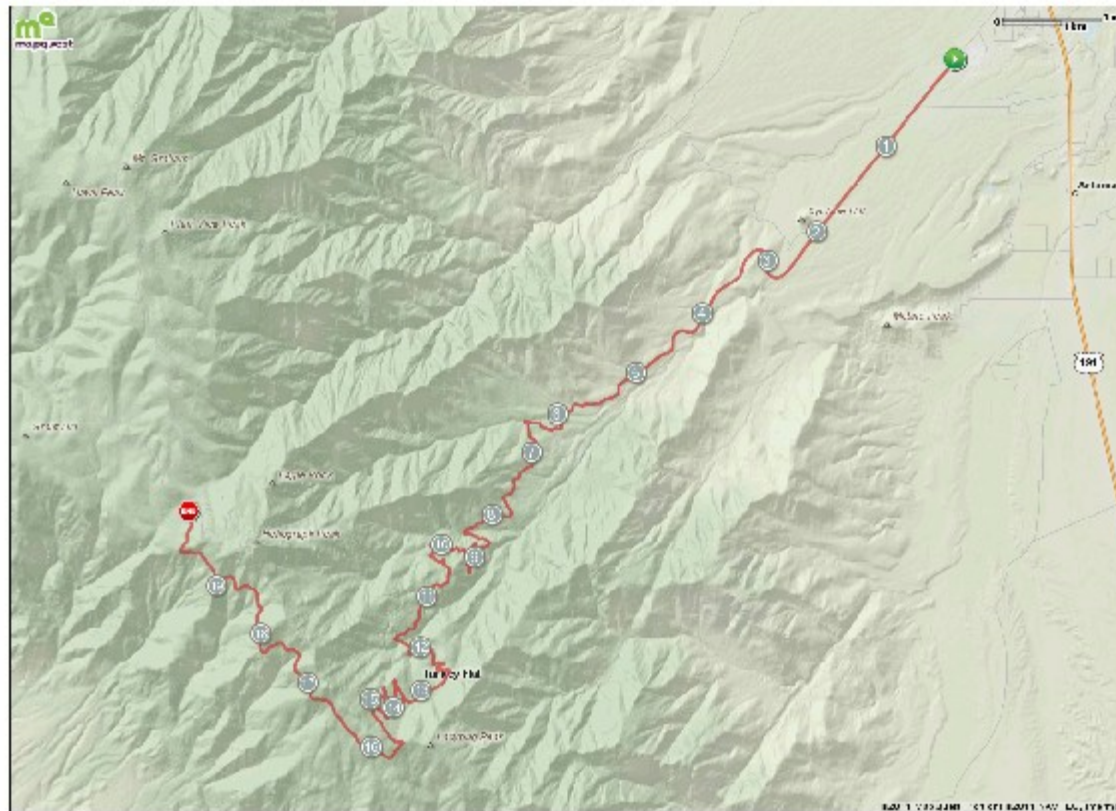
MAP 20-mile event



Mt. Graham Hill Climb 20 Mile Event

Starts in Safford, Arizona

20.00 miles



Description

Mt. Graham Hill Climb 20 Mile event starting at mile post 115.1 on Arizona State Route 366 South of Safford Arizona and ending at mile post 135.1. Start just past the upper prison parking area. The route is the Mt. Graham Hill Climb which is the Arizona State Hill Climb Championship. This is a road bike event not a mountain bike event. This is the toughest climb in Arizona and is Rated a HC due to the length and steepness! Nippy Feldhake Race Director