

The same road that was mostly uphill on the way out provided a nice way to digest lunch on the way back, and soon I was feeling pretty good. We did have some strong headwinds, and I was taking some pulls on the front and giving Geof a bit of respite from the wind. His pulls were longer, and without that draft I would've had a much harder time of it. Thanks again G. Old US 1 was fairly uneventful, the triathlon was long since over! After the control at Maxi Mart we decided to take the American Tobacco Trail option instead of Hwy 751 to avoid traffic and get out of the wind. I was a little worried about my tires- just last week I put on a set of 23c Torelli Torino open tubulars that were given to me- good Karma from a set of 26" city tires I gave away. I wasn't expecting to do any trail riding, and these Torellis are known for their supple, smooth road feel and NOT their durability! The hardpack section of the ATT was ok and we were enjoying the ride, even though we lost a bit of speed by using the trail. Soon it gave way to a paved section and we were able to pick it up a bit, but still not full gas since there were other trail users to think about. The paved section then gave way to a rough gravel section with exposed roots and manhole covers. The pucker factor was high, but we made it to the end without a flat!

At this point we were just a few miles from the finish, but just for good measure we missed the turn onto Audobon Lake Rd. and got a couple bonus miles. Turned around at Hwy 54, backtracked to the turn and rode to the finish back at Bean Traders. All in all another great day on the bike and a fantastic new Permanent route right here in our backyard. Thanks Branson!

Garmin stats [HERE](#)



In Sanford- open control. We chose the Fairview Dairy Bar. Parking lot was full and the place was packed, always a good sign at a restaurant. Would take too long to have breakfast, but we made a mental note that this might just be our lunch stop on the return trip...



Geof got a pastry. Strange reaction to sugar, I assume...



In Carthage, outside the coffee shop. 62 miles done and at the turnaround!



Back in Sanford, a sit-down lunch is in order.



Geof stylin' the arm warmers.



Done. A small amount of bonus miles, probably a combo of taking the ATT option on the return and missing one turn.

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Mike Dayton and 3 others like this.



Jennifer Heringer Very cool, thanks for the report. Also, I think the espressos are apropos for "Branson's Carthage Coffee Run". As for the Karma, I'm loving the 26's... and I still owe you! (I haven't forgotten)
22 hours ago · [Flag](#)



Vance Ricks Haha! "the pucker factor" good ride report -- how does the hilliness compare to, say, that of the Morrisville 200?
21 hours ago · [Flag](#)



Bryan Rierson @Vance- it's hard to say. The GPS gives me roughly the same ascent- 4,500ft, but this route seems a bit hillier to me. There's definitely nothing like the climb into Carthage on the Morrisville 200K. No real long, gradual climbs on this one- all rollers, so even though they're similar amounts of climbing the character of the climbs is very different.
21 hours ago · [Flag](#)



Peggy Malanosky Great read!!! Ur so close to ur R12!!! Congrats to U & Geof on another long ride!!
21 hours ago · [Flag](#)



Branson Kimball My bad on the bonus miles- the cue sheet was wrong. Fixed now. Thanks for opening the route and being the "beta testers!"
21 hours ago · [Flag](#)



Geof Simons hehe. it's as much fun as you said, Bry!
@Vance-the rollers are spread out on the far end. no "three sisters" like morrisville. more akin to lake loop. the wind was the culprit. oh, and once out of durham, very quiet!
11 hours ago · [Flag](#)