



## Great Basin Bicycles

8048 S. Virginia St. Reno, NV. 89511 775-825-8258

[www.greatbasinbicycles.com](http://www.greatbasinbicycles.com)

### **Sidewinder - Trail Corral Trail - Mr. Toads Wild Ride South Lake Tahoe - Meyers)**

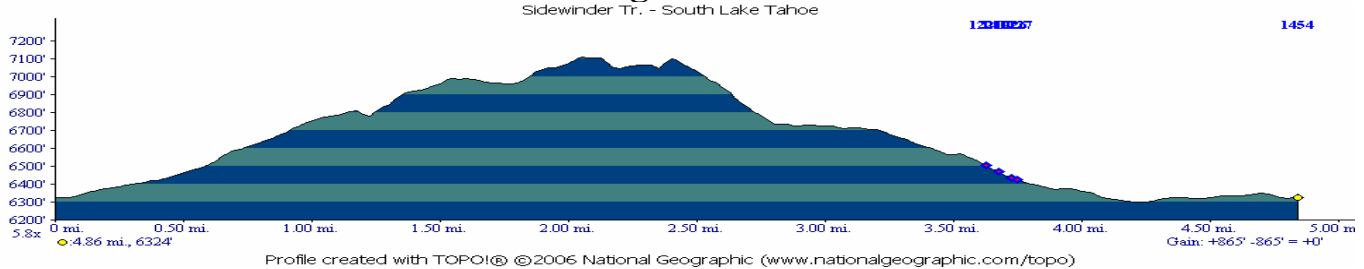
From Reno, take Highway 395 south past Carson City to Highway 50. Take a right on Highway 50 and head up Spooner Summit to Lake Tahoe. At Spooner Summit, stay left on Highway 28 / 50 and head south to Stateline. Continue past Stateline on Highway 28 / 50, and you will come to the "Y". Take a right on Hwy 50 and continue south towards Meyers. You will see signs for the Lake Tahoe Airport on your right, and after you pass the airport you will come to a light intersection. This is Pioneer Trail and Hwy 50. Take a left on Pioneer Trail and follow it east for about 3/4 mile and you will see Onidas Dr. on your right. Take a right on Onidas, and follow it for 1 mile. Here you will cross over Saxon Creek, and you will see parking either right before the creek, or just down the jeep road on your left. Choose your parking spot, and head up Onidas Rd. I have looked at a couple of maps, and some call the road from here Onidas, and others call it Fountain Pl. I don't recall any street signs other than Onidas, but the road, which is paved continues up the hill. It is very steep, but paved and completely rideable. The upper section of trail, called The Armstrong Connector is a bit technical, but the lower section, Sidewinder or Corral Trail are much easier. Corral is a little more technical than Sidewinder with some rocky sections. I recommend Sidewinder for anyone. It is very smooth, and very fast. It goes from banked turn to banked turn. There are so many turns that you almost get sick. It is one of the most enjoyable trails in the area. Highly recommended.



# Sidewinder Trail – South Lake Tahoe. (Blue Trail)

## (Intermediate)

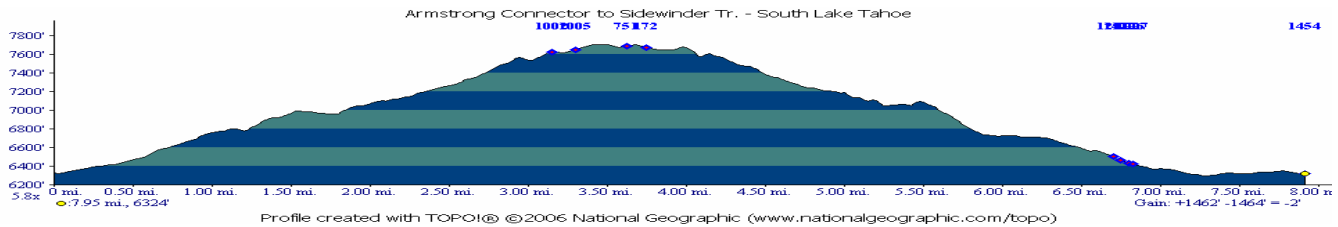
4.86 miles 865 ft. total elevation gain



If you really wanted to, you could shuttle this ride. I just can't do the shuttle unless I ride up Onidas at least once. So, once you park around the creek, head east, uphill on Onidas Dr. There are no turns off of Onidas until you get to the trail head. So, just climb up the very steep paved road for 2.11 miles and you will come to a flat area that also has parking on the right, and the single track on your left directly across the street from the parking area. There is also a Forest Service sign with a map showing where Corral Trail and Sidewinder Trail go. So, here you can continue up the pavement to either the **Armstrong Connector**, or **The Upper Armstrong Connector**, or **Mr Toads Wild Ride** which are written up below. So, at the 2.11 mile mark, take a left and start down the singletrack. Almost immediately you will come to a sign that marks Corral Trail to your left, and Sidewinder Trail to your right. Again, Corral Trail does not flow as well as Sidewinder, but they both come out at the same point. I recommend staying on Sidewinder to your right. You will immediately come to a short rocky section. Many people just walk over this section, but the rest of the trail is much easier. About ½ way down this section, you will see a fun log ride on your right. Watch the video, but you can ride around the log ride and just take the singletrack. From here, it is impossible to get lost, just follow the trail downhill, and in .68 miles (2.71 miles from the start) you will come to an intersection where the Corral Trail will join in on the right side. Once at this intersection, take a right and follow the singletrack down hill. The singletrack continues to weave through the trees for just a short distance, then turns into almost a jeep road, just a little shorter. Here it is just a strait shot down the hill. Please be careful here. The trail has many small humps that you ride over. If you get going too fast, it is very easy to send the back of your bike right over your head and face plant in the dirt. So, wear a helmet, and be cautious of your speed. In 1.21 miles (4 miles) the trail will dump out on a pole line road. Here take a left and follow the jeep road for .32 miles (4.32 miles) where you will veer left and follow this jeep road .43 miles (4.75 miles) back to Onidas. If you parked before the creek, take a right on Onidas and go 200 yards back to your car.

# Armstrong Connector (Blue to Green to Blue Trail) (Advanced)

7.95 miles 1462 ft. total elevation gain



This trail is part of the Sidewinder Trail. So if you want to make **Sidewinder** a little longer, this is perfect. Or, you can also add in the **Upper Armstrong Connector** for even a longer



ride. So, from the lower parking area on Onidas, follow the **Sidewinder Trail** directions, and ride up Onidas. Once you are at the upper parking area for Sidewinder, you will see the paved road continue up the hill. It will immediately take a hard right and climb south. You may also notice the singletrack that comes out of the trees right in front of you in the switchback of Onidas road. This is your return singletrack. I did ride it uphill once. It is rideable, but later in the season it does get soft and loamy. It makes traction difficult on the uphill. I would recommend riding Onidas up to the end of the pavement for 3.42 miles from the creek where you parked, then ride down from there. Onidas road is just as steep for this second section as it was for the first. And yes, if you really wanted to you could shuttle to the very top and just ride down. Once at the

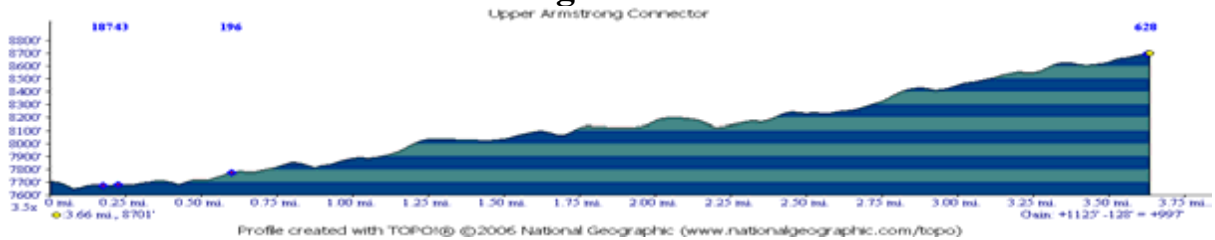
top, you will come across a green bar/gate that prevents you from following the road uphill any further. It is private property beyond the gate. Here you will see a singletrack on your right, The **Upper Armstrong Connector**, and the **Armstrong Connector** to your left. From here head left, and start the trail. This trail parallels the road back down. In about ¼ mile, you will see a log ride on your left. You can take the trail around the log if you don't want to ride it, but it is a fun ride. See the video. This first section is very easy, fairly flat and flows well. In .58 miles (4 miles from the start) the trail will get a little more difficult. Still flows well, but you will come across a couple of rocky sections that are exposed along the hill side. Then you will hit a couple rock drops, no more than 2 feet, but they come up on you fast, so be careful. Once through the rocky section, you will have covered .78 miles (4.78 miles) where the trail will get very smooth and fast with a ton of turns. This section is fast and full of turns. Then at .45 miles (5.23 miles) the trail will drop you out on Onidas at the parking area for Sidewinder Trail which will be on your right side. From here, follow the Sidewinder Trail directions back to your car.





# Upper Armstrong Connector (Purple Trail) (Intermediate - Advanced)

3.66 miles 1125 ft. total elevation gain



If you want to make your original ride longer, this is your ride. Starting from the bottom of Onidas, you can climb to the end of the pavement, which is where you would start the **Armstrong Connector**, and instead of heading left and back down the hill, take a right and

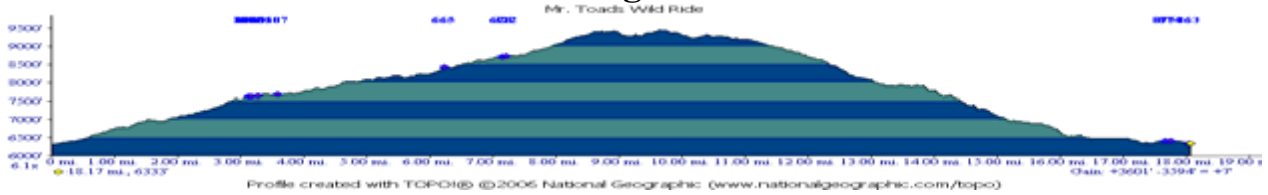


follow the Upper Armstrong Connector to Armstrong pass. This Upper connector terminates on the TRT (Tahoe Rim Trail.) This trail has a couple of rocky sections of singletrack, but not bad, and not very technical. I would call it an intermediate trail in the way of technical ability, but an advanced trail due to distance and climbing. Once you take the right, it is impossible to get lost. This climb comes in waves, in the first 1.25 miles you will encounter a fairly steep climb, then it flattens out again, then another climb, then another. The singletrack is fairly simple, and just winds up the hill. It is a ton of fun coming back down. So follow the trail uphill, and at 3.66 miles, you will “T” intersect the TRT. If you go left, you will climb up to the base of Freel Peak. This is another 3 miles up a loose, and steep climb of 1067 feet. This will take you to the base of the Freel Peak hiking trail. Great view, but I think that Freel Peak is best accessed from the Star Lake side. If you go right,

you can head west to **Mr. Toads Wild Ride**. You can also cut directly across the trail, and grab another singletrack that will just go for a very short distance and drop you into Hope Valley. Here the choice is yours. You can ride back down the singletrack and then take the Armstrong Connector to Sidewinder and make a great loop out of the ride, or head off to Mr. Toads, or up to Freel Peak. Enjoy and be safe.

# Mr Toads Wild Ride (Blue to Green to Purple to Black Trail) (Advanced)

18.17 miles 3601 ft. total elevation gain



Mr. Toads Wild Ride is written up twice on my site. The old way is from Onidas Road, ride back to Meyers, then up the pavement towards Luther Pass. That is how the other Mr. Toads is written up. Now that the Upper Armstrong Connector is in, this is the new and preferred way to ride this trail. So follow the directions above all the way up the Onidas paved road to the Upper Armstrong Connector. Then take the Upper Armstrong Connector to Armstrong Pass. Once on Armstrong Pass, the Upper Armstrong Connector terminates into the TRT (Tahoe Rim Trail.) Here, take a right, west on the TRT. This section of the TRT follows the ridge mainly up hill, nothing too steep, and nothing too technical. You will just meander mainly up with a little down for 1.76 miles from Armstrong Pass (8.95 miles from the start at the bottom of Onidas Road.) Here you will start a slight downhill, and in .78 miles (9.73 miles) you will again crest a peak. Except for one more short climb, the major climbing is over. Continue west on the TRT, and in 2.14 miles (11.87 miles) you will come to an intersection. Last time I was there, I saw a sign that said Saxon Creek Trail. Another time I was there, I saw no sign. So, I am not sure if there is still a sign or not, but, you will see the TRT continue to the left heading west. You want to head strait, or slightly right on the Saxon Creek Trail which is Mr. Toads Wild Ride. It is mostly downhill from here. So head right, north, towards Lake Tahoe. The upper section of this trail is technical. You have many rock drops. Some of them are 3 – 4 ft. drops, that if you don't hit right on, you end up on your face. So again, be very careful. This upper section is about 1.5 miles long, so if you don't feel comfortable riding the drops, get off your bike and walk. Then you will ride a couple hundred yards, then hit the next one. Once through this 1.5 mile section, the trail gets smoother, but again be careful, because in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, you will come around a sweeping right hand turn to hit a stair section. I have never counted them as I have been too concentrated on not killing my self, but there must be about 15-20 steps in succession. Ride this trail slowly the first time. Once you are clear of the steps, the fun begins. This last section is not technical at all, it just rips through the trees. You do have to watch some of the turns, because there are a couple of trees that are slightly in the trail. You come around nice and fast, and right at shoulder location, a tree jumps out of the forest and slams you right shoulder. This section feels like you are a speeder in the Star Wars move ripping through the trees. It is a blast, and this is almost the same feeling you get on the **Sidewinder Trail** above, but with tighter turns, and closer trees. In 2.49 miles the trail will drop out onto a jeep road. Here, just follow the jeep road back to Onidas Dr. Depending on where you parked, you may have to take a right on Onidas, and head just under  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downhill to the car.



