



AndrewsTrails.com
Your guide to the area.



Snowbird Crest Mountain Bike Run

This run is **Not** for the fainthearted! From Downtown Andrews, on Locust Street; cross US 74/19, proceed up paved Beaver Creek Road to the end. You will get a preview of the steepness of the 8-10% grades along this paved portion.

Turn right onto USFS gravel road and after a steep climb to the 4500 foot elevation mountain range top, the road traverses the grade changes of the numerous mountains; Old Billy Top, Mattie Top, side trail markings, etc., along the crest approximately 10 miles to Porterfield Gap. You will observe wildlife, long range mountain/valley views, in an overwhelming sense of truly being in the heart of the Snowbird Mountains.

Adverse weather changes should be expected, with winds and driving rains. Return is of course mostly downhill, but expect the numerous grade changes in the descent. The last part of the descent is a thrill ride back to Town. Total distance is 24.8 miles. If turning around at the Bill Top marker (@ 7.9 miles) the total round tip will be 15.8 miles.

For the truly adventurous, at Porterfield Gap, turn right over the mountain top into Graham County to descend Little Snowbird Creek roads into Robbinsville, NC. Return can be by the highway, via US 129 to Topton, US 19/74 for a return from Robbinsville of 23 miles to Andrews. Or use the alternate mountain bike route via Long Creek, across Tatham Gap, traversing the Trail of Tears the 11 miles back to start. Food is available in Robbinsville, but carry plenty of water. The Long Creek grade is almost as steep as your first ride to the mountain tops. There will be long-range views of the Valley on the Andrews side of the trip.



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A fantastic side trip to the old fire tower atop elevation 4700 feet Johanna Bald can be made from Tatham Gap. It is approximately three miles from the Gap to the top. There will be long range views of the Valley for most of the ride. The 360 degree views from the Bald are extreme; Santeetla Lake to the north, Nantahala Gorge to the east, and the Valley River Valley to south and west.

These tours will take most of a day, even for an experienced rider. Good weather conditions are critical, however, on good days the trips can be made year round, with best views while leaves are off the trees. Riders may encounter some trucks and ATVs on the USFS routes and normal traffic on the paved roads.



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