

## 22 Pine Mountain Loop

**Distance:** 13.4 miles

**Riding Time:** 2-2.5 hours

**Elevation Change:** 2900'

**Difficulty:** Strenuous

**Technical Rating:** 8 Extremely rocky, rutted and steep.

Marin's most remote ride. Tough, rocky and steep fire roads take you through Sargent cypress and chaparral on the ridge tops. Redwoods, fir and bay provide some shade in the lakeside canyons.

**0.0** Start from parking area on Bolinas Rd. and ride up Pine Mtn. FR, a steep rocky grind. Pass the junction of Oat Hill FR at **1.1** miles.

**1.6** Junction **1** of Pine Mtn. FR and San Geronimo Ridge FR. Go left on Pine Mtn. FR and climb to the summit of Pine Mtn. at **2.4** mile (1762'). A small trail from the FR leads to the actual summit and a rocky outcropping sheltered from the wind by shrubs. Continue on along the ridge.

**3.6** Knoll. Bolinas Ridge to the west, Kent Lake below in the canyon, Tomales Bay to the north and Mt. Tam to the south are highlights of the view. (marker on knoll, GS21). This knoll is also a fine place to see hawks from above as they float on thermals below.

**5.3** Leave the ridge top and descend into the forest of the Kent Lake drainage; the trail gets steep so be careful.

**5.7** Unsigned T-junction. Go right. The left trail deadends. The trail meanders along Kent Lake, through riparian habitat and across streams, then climbs back out of the other side of the Kent Lake drainage basin.

**8.9** Four-way junction **2**. Green Mtn. lies uphill to the left. Take a right onto San Geronimo Ridge FR. At **9.9** miles, you pass through a meadow with trails coming in from the left. Stay right to climb back to a rocky ridge top.

**11.4** Repack FR on the left (1480'). Continue straight, into a short rocky, technical descent.

**11.8** Junction of Pine Mtn. FR and San Geronimo Ridge FR. Go straight to retrace your ride back to the parking area. The steep rocky descent is the last of the ride.

**13.4** Back at the parking area.

**The fabled Paradigm trail was built near here by bikers. The trail caused major controversy with the water district. It was permanently closed by MMWD at a cost of more than \$25,000.**