



# AMERICA'S Best Shop Rides

*Bike shops are the hub of every cycling community, so it's no surprise that the rides they create are the best way to become part of that scene—and to get fit, make friends and find the best roads. In these pages, we present our exhaustively researched compilation of the 50 greatest.*

For 120 years, the Bishop's Bicycles shop ride has been rolling out of Milford, Ohio, into a landscape of open roads and rolling hills. For more info, see p. 51.

*photographed by JONATHAN ROBERT WILLIS*





## WE DON'T JUST DO OUR SHOP RIDES. WE ARE OUR SHOP RIDES.

**T**he guy—you know this guy—rolls into the bike-shop parking lot at precisely 5:25 every Wednesday evening, five minutes before the group ride departs. He is gaunt and weathered, a mythic-looking figure of bone and scraped skin wearing a loose-fitting, five-year-old finisher's jersey from a mountainous double century with the words Terrible, Horrible, Brutal or Certain Death in its name. When he stops his bike, he surveys the parking lot with a

10,000-foot-elevation-gain-in-one-day stare that exudes

cycling heroism, and he confidently announces his presence.

"Hey, everybody," he says. "Nice day for a ride!"

A few people nod in agreement. A few continue conversations with other riders. A few walk through the front door of the shop and shout greetings to the owner. A few step out, smiling, stuffing a couple of brand-new gels into their back pockets. A few others squat on their top tubes, one foot clipped in and bobbing, leg ticking, ready to roll down the street and light the countryside on fire.

Our grizzled cyclist's bicycle, like its owner, was new once, but it's hard to tell exactly when. He has seen it all, and so has his bike: several hundred tough miles covered since last Wednesday; the cables are dirty; the handlebar tape is fraying and probably concealing substances on the bar itself that the shop mechanic would need a HAZMAT suit to clean; and hanging loosely from the bike's saddle is a sun-faded tool pack that resembles something long and gray dangling between the back legs of the oldest, most experienced stallion in the corral.

The grizzled cyclist lives for riding. For years, he has spent every free moment of his life on a bike, and you may consequently venture to ask him why, if he has ridden everywhere in the world and seen everything a cyclist could see, does he show up every Wednesday for the group ride at the shop?

He will look over the group again—the bright colors, the bikes of all types, the riders tall and short and narrow and wide—and he will say, "Think I'm staying home when the circus is in town? This is the highlight of my week!"

Not all shop rides are the same, of course, much in the same way

that not all cyclists are the same—some are bigger, faster, smaller, mellower, friendlier, angrier; some are out for blood, some for love. But every shop ride in the world revolves around the same principle: A great bike shop does more than sell and true wheels and adjust shifter cables. A great shop is the epicenter of the local cycling community. We bring our bikes to the shop for repairs, sure, but we also bring our cycling personalities and our passion for cycling and our desire to come together as a group and enjoy our lives on two wheels.

So when this perfect idea comes together in one perfect moment, when you and the grizzled old cyclist and everyone else in the bike shop's parking lot clicks into their pedals and rolls en masse toward loop routes that transcend a mere roll down yonder road, you are participating in the finest essence of our sport. We are one group leaving our local bike shop, unified, saying with our colorful rolling and talking and laughing parade that not only do we belong in the larger community but that we are the community and we own these roads, too.

True enough, maybe a few miles later the group will be strung out. The fast people might be off the front, sprinting for town lines and designated mailboxes or what have you, and the slower people might be off the back, spinning along happily and discussing the scenery, but later in the evening, when the ride's over, everyone who attended will know they were part of something cool, that they helped make it cool, and that they'll be out there again next week.—*Mike Magnuson*





Wayne "Hog" Raymond takes in liquid refreshment after the Dr. J's Bicycle Shop ride (left and p. 46), which tackles the undulating roads of central California's best-known wine country.

*photographed by COLLIN ERIE*



AMERICA'S  
**Best  
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Rides**

The Kentucky Derby isn't the only high-speed event in these parts: On the Tuesday-night Cyclers' Cafe ride out of Louisville, dropping your friends can be part of the camaraderie.

*photographed by*  
**JONATHAN ROBERT WILLIS**

# 50 RIDES FOR THE AGES

By Colleen Leahey, with additional reporting by Samantha DuBois, Tim Shisler and Christopher Worden

## Cycler's Cafe

Louisville, Kentucky

**THE RIDE** Speeds often top 30 mph in the first section of this blistering Tuesday-night ride. The pace dips through Cherokee and Seneca Parks, but heading home it turns into an all-out drag race among 50-plus riders. **THE SCENE**

Why the crit-level pace? Because the ride lures the occasional pro, and multi-time road and track national champion Curtis Tolson often shows up. Afterward, the café side of the shop serves cold beverages and food. **THE SCOOP** cycler'scafe.com

## Bob's Bikes

Birmingham, Alabama

**THE RIDE** Between March and October, riders try to hang on to the 20-plus-mph evening hammerfest known as Tuesday Worlds. Beginners can join the casual Saturday-morning ride; both courses swoop over rolling suburban terrain. **THE SCENE** The after-ride gathering coalesces at Jackson's Bar and Bistro; when it's not blast-furnace hot out, riders sit on the 100-seat patio and savor their selections from the 30-beer list. **THE SCOOP** bobs-bikes.com

## Bike Barn

Phoenix

**THE RIDE** Meeting at 6 or 7 a.m. two Sundays a month, this ride covers 20 to 30 miles, depending on the pack's makeup. The relatively flat suburban roads help accommodate newbies. **THE SCENE** Ride leaders Bob and Dave create a custom route for each week's group—and because there are two leaders, the pack often splits into fast and slow rides. **THE SCOOP** bikebarnaz.com

## Bicycle Ranch

Scottsdale, Arizona

**THE RIDE** Attracting as many as 80 people, this A/B/C ride spins 40 to 60 miles along an out-and-back route that leaves from the shop and heads toward the mountains. After grinding up a 1,500-foot climb, the pack regroup at the Bartlett Lake Ranger Station before descending back to the shop. **THE SCENE** The shop provides postride bagels and coffee for all riders. **THE SCOOP** bicycleranch.com

## Chainwheel Bikes

Little Rock, Arkansas

**THE RIDE** Bruce's Coffee Ride is a 24-mile beginner outing that meets between pavilions 2 and 3 at the city's Murray Park. After rolling out at 7:30 a.m., riders pedal across the nation's longest pedestrian bridge to Arkansas River paths. **THE SCENE** The venerable Community Bakery makes for a popular turnaround spot thanks to its high-octane espresso. **THE SCOOP** chainwheel.com

## Snider's Cyclery

Bakersfield, California

**THE RIDE** Led by members of an outfit that calls itself the Ride Fast Crew, this Thursday-night event draws as many as 30 cyclists on fixed-gear or singlespeed bikes. Rides range from 5 to 20 miles on the less-trafficked streets of this sprawling Central Valley city. **THE SCENE** Rides start at Dagny's Coffee Company, which serves beer and wine in addition to the expected caffeinated beverages—ensuring riders start fully hydrated. Afterward, everyone heads to Pizzaville USA for thin-crust slices. **THE SCOOP** sniderscyclery.com

## Bicycle World

Houston

**THE RIDE** The Thursday-Night Pub Crawl travels anywhere from 4 to 15 miles, allowing cyclists to spin around town, enjoy the warm night air, and hit pizza joints and assorted watering holes. **THE SCENE** On big holidays, such as St. Patrick's Day or the Fourth of July, this ride draws nearly 50 revelers. **THE SCOOP** bicycleworldandfitness.com

## Tour of Nevada City Bicycle Shop

Nevada City, California

**THE RIDE** This advanced-skills-only Thursday-evening mountain-bike ride heads up into the Sierra Nevada and tackles technical singletrack, climbing up to 3,000 feet over three hours.



Bicycle World's Thursday-Night Pub Crawl covers as little as 4 miles but hits plenty of Houston's back decks and microbrews.

photographed by CURTIS W. DEGIDIO

### RIDE KEY

**A** = Race pace, often no regrouping; **B** = Fit club riders, may regroup; **C** = Casual, often with no-drop policy

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**THE SCENE** For more low-key fun, the shop guys gather for bike polo (with homemade mallets) on summertime Wednesdays.  
**THE SCOOP** [tourofnevadacity.com](http://tourofnevadacity.com)

## Dr. J's Bicycle Shop

[Solvang, California](http://Solvang, California)

✦ Pictured on pages 40–41  
**THE RIDE** The Sunday-morning ride, covering 35-plus miles, delivers rolling hills and tight canyons on its way through wine country. The pack sometimes follows the Zaca Station loop, ending with a fast descent down the newly paved Ballard Canyon—part of the Tour of California's time trial in 2009. **THE SCENE** Head with the group to the Bulldog Café for a smoothie or what the folks there proclaim to be the best coffee in town. **THE SCOOP** [drjbikeshop.com](http://drjbikeshop.com)

## Treads Bicycle Outfitters

[Lakewood, Colorado](http://Lakewood, Colorado)

**THE RIDE** This women-only ride fronts the foothills of Colorado's Front Range. Following 16.5 miles of paved bike paths adjacent to wooded streams, the route climbs to panoramic views of the setting sun to the west and Denver's sea of lights to the east. **THE SCENE** Watch out below: Rogue prairie dogs sometimes turn up along the route. **THE SCOOP** [treads.com](http://treads.com)

## Lauderdale Cyclery

[Fort Lauderdale, Florida](http://Fort Lauderdale, Florida)

**THE RIDE** Cyclists on Mike's Ride get to watch the sun rise over the Atlantic Ocean on this 6 a.m. jaunt along sleepy Route A1A. But this is no leisurely outing: The pace typically averages almost 30 mph on the 30-plus-mile out-and-back route. **THE SCENE** Redlining riders might seek divine intervention: Former owner Mike sold the shop and became a priest, but local cyclists have kept this ride rolling for 25-plus years. **THE SCOOP** [lauderdalecyclery.com](http://lauderdalecyclery.com)

## Bicycles, Etc.

[Jacksonville, Florida](http://Jacksonville, Florida)

**THE RIDE** The Wednesday Fat Tire Social travels as many as 15 miles along courses that vary based on the group's mood. Cyclists head off at a relatively relaxed pace on trails as disparate as the University of Northern Florida campus and

the beach. **THE SCENE** Some of the 20-plus participants show off trials skills at a business park, taking advantage of stairs, rails, jumps and drops before retiring to the Ale House. **THE SCOOP** [bicyclesetc.net](http://bicyclesetc.net)

## Bicycle South

[Decatur, Georgia](http://Decatur, Georgia)

**THE RIDE** One Sunday a month, Bicycle South hosts a 20-mile family-friendly ride that travels along multiuse paths to Stone Mountain State Park. **THE SCENE** Beginner-friendly. Think cruisers, trailers and the like. **THE SCOOP** [bicyclesouth.com](http://bicyclesouth.com)

## The Bike Shop

[Honolulu](http://Honolulu)

**THE RIDE** Leaving on Saturday mornings from the Kapiolani Park Foundation, the 60- to 70-mile ride heads toward the scenic Pali Highway, up the Tantalus cinder cone overlooking Honolulu, and back toward the Ko'olau volcanic range. At an average of 19 mph, it's a B-plus pace with a C-grade demeanor. The pack regroupes often, and there's a Starbucks stop halfway in. **THE SCENE** Those with aero bars or iPods are asked to leave them in the car. But bring a set of lights for two lengthy tunnels. **THE SCOOP** [thebikeshophawaii.com](http://thebikeshophawaii.com)

## George's Cycles

[Boise, Idaho](http://Boise, Idaho)

**THE RIDE** This no-drop, women-only Thursday-evening ride rolls for 90 minutes, covering anything from steep hills to long, flat sections on the fringes of the city. **THE SCENE** With participants as young as nine years old, this ride is extremely social. Those looking for a more of a workout hit the trails at Bogus Basin before the ride begins. **THE SCOOP** [georgescycles.com](http://georgescycles.com)

## BikeTek

[Springfield, Illinois](http://Springfield, Illinois)

**THE RIDE** Led by BikeTek's lead mechanic, this flat 10.8-mile out-and-back is, well, flat out—it's affectionately known as the New City World Championship Time Trials. Top off your tank before you start. **THE SCENE** The vibe is friendly, but here's everything you need to know: The course record is 22:36, which required an average speed of 28.8 mph (including a U-turn). **THE SCOOP** [biketekinc.net](http://biketekinc.net)

## Summit City Bicycles and Fitness

[Fort Wayne, Indiana](http://Fort Wayne, Indiana)

**THE RIDE** Riders use this slow-paced, 8- to 12-miler to unwind along the back streets of the city as well as to ride up and down a random parking garage (or two). **THE SCENE** The après gathering sometimes settles in at local hot spot Mad Anthony Brewing

# The Waffle 'Cross Ride includes 20 to 25 miles of dirt trails and gravel roads—after which the shop provides waffle makings and toppings.

Company, home of \$2 pints.  
**THE SCOOP** [summitcitybikes.com](http://summitcitybikes.com)

## Rasmussen Bicycle Shop

[West Des Moines, Iowa](http://West Des Moines, Iowa)

**THE RIDE** This relatively flat Wednesday-evening mountain-bike outing covers up to 20 miles of mixed terrain. (Yes, there are some climbs in Iowa.) **THE SCENE** Why Wednesdays? Partly because that's the night that Giff Wagner's 5th Street Pub has \$1.25 tacos. **THE SCOOP** [rasmussenbikehome.blogspot.com](http://rasmussenbikehome.blogspot.com)

## Bullmoose Brothers Bicycles

[Elizabethtown, Kentucky](http://Elizabethtown, Kentucky)

**THE RIDE** The entry-level 10-10 (10 miles at 10 mph) and 20-13 (20 at 13 mph) rides both roll through historic Elizabethtown, home to Civil War history and Maker's Mark factory tours (save that for after the ride). **THE SCENE** Afterward, head next door to Carmen Coyle's yoga studio to double up on your workout. **THE SCOOP** [bullmoosebrothersbicycles.com](http://bullmoosebrothersbicycles.com)

## Gorham Bike and Ski Shop

[Portland, Maine](http://Portland, Maine)

**THE RIDE** Rain or shine, this A-pace, 30- to 40-mile Saturday-morning ride escalates into two sprint lines whizzing by summer cottages tucked into wooded areas. **THE SCENE** Fifty to 60 cyclists hang out at the shop afterward and nosh on free postride bagels and coffee (especially in July, to watch Tour de France stage finishes). **THE SCOOP** [gorhambike.com](http://gorhambike.com)

## The Bicycle Place

[Silver Spring, Maryland](http://Silver Spring, Maryland)

**THE RIDE** Attracting as many as 100 to 150 riders, this A/B/C 30- to 40-mile route follows the Potomac River, mixing in a few big rollers and the occasional hard climb. **THE SCENE** The next-door Parkway Deli is the postride destination of choice for a quick lunch and coffee and its alluring dessert case. **THE SCOOP** [thebicycleplace.com](http://thebicycleplace.com)

## Belmont Wheelworks

[Belmont, Massachusetts](http://Belmont, Massachusetts)

**THE RIDE** Dubbed Waffle-Cross, this A- to B-plus-paced Sunday-morning cyclocross ride offers 20 to 25 miles of on- and off-road fun and averages 15 to 20 cyclists. The ride is relatively flat, but the dirt

trails and gravel roads make for a rousing randonnee. **THE SCENE** Bring your 'cross bike, extra tubes and...waffle iron? Yup. Belmont Wheelworks provides the batter and toppings. **THE SCOOP** [facebook.com/belmontwheelworks](http://facebook.com/belmontwheelworks)

## Riverside Cycles

[Newburyport, Massachusetts](http://Newburyport, Massachusetts)

**THE RIDE** Riders split into A, B and C packs following a 7-mile warm-up, then hammer along the Merrimack River. The ride regroupes after sprints and any big efforts over large rollers. **THE SCENE** After the 35-mile excursion, cyclists head down the street for Belgian beer, pub fare and open mike night at The Grog. **THE SCOOP** [riversidecycle.com](http://riversidecycle.com)

## Gus' Bike Shop

[North Hampton, New Hampshire](http://North Hampton, New Hampshire)

**THE RIDE** Following New Hampshire's slender slice of Atlantic coastline, this Thursday-night no-drop ladies-only ride rolls through salty air past scenic views of weathered mansions and beaches. The ride covers 17 to 25 miles. **THE SCENE** The ride leader, Leslie Latimer, hopes to build passion for riding among area women by offering an easygoing pace and postride pizza, beer and wine back at the shop. **THE SCOOP** [gusbike.com](http://gusbike.com)

## Bikebarn

[Whitman, Massachusetts](http://Whitman, Massachusetts)

**THE RIDE** The 40 or so participants split into three groups—riding anywhere between 30 and 45 miles—and average 17 to 22 mph on quintessential New England roads that are generally flat and quiet. **THE SCENE** Bikebarn orders muffins in advance for riders who register on its website, leading the event to be nicknamed the Muffin Ride. Some grab espresso at Deja Brew, an artisan coffee shop down the street. **THE SCOOP** [bikebarnracing.com](http://bikebarnracing.com)

## Velo City Cycles

[Holland, Michigan](http://Holland, Michigan)

**THE RIDE** With 50 to 75 participants weekly, this relatively flat 30-mile ride breaks up into four groups based on ability: hot, medium, mild



The no-drop ride from Gus' Bike Shop is as gentle and beginner-friendly as the New Hampshire coast is rugged.  
*photographed by HEATHER MCGRATH*





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and (the apparently redundant) mellow. The postcard-perfect Michigan landscape offers vistas of sweeping crop fields, swaying cornstalks and berry farms.

**THE SCENE** After the ride on the last Tuesday of each month, the shop offers pizza for all riders.

**THE SCOOP** velo-citycycles.com

## Village Bike and Fitness

Jenison, Michigan

**THE RIDE** Covering 20 miles on Saturday mornings, this no-drop ride on the outskirts of Grand Rapids has been going strong for nearly two decades. With relatively flat roads shaded by abundant foliage during warm months, the course follows a simple out-and-back route.

**THE SCENE** The Bagel Ride stops around the midway point for breakfast, often at the Wealthy Street Bakery, which offers more than 15 varieties of bread and an array of pastries.

**THE SCOOP** villagebikeshop.com

## Indian Cycle and Fitness

Ridgeland, Mississippi

**THE RIDE** Splitting into A and B groups, this Thursday-night ride covers 15 to 30 miles of multi-use paths along the scenic and historic—but fairly flat—Natchez Trace Parkway, originally a trade route created by Native Americans in the 1700s.

**THE SCENE** The League of American Bicyclists recently named Ridgeland one of only two bicycle-friendly communities in Mississippi, partly thanks to Indian Cycle, which features a helpful “how to get there by bike” tool on its website.

**THE SCOOP** indiancyclefitness.com

## Action Wheels

Deptford, New Jersey

**THE RIDE** Averaging a total of around 80 participants, three groups ride the mostly flat roads of south Jersey. The fastest group covers 30 miles at 19-plus mph, and the slowest group rides 22 miles at 15 to 17 mph.

**THE SCENE** This ride is so well established that local cops often agree to stop traffic at major intersections along the loop. Riders occasionally wrap up the evening with pizza—and sometimes Victory Brewing “sponsors” the ride by donating postride beverages.

**THE SCOOP** actionwheels.com

## High Gear Cyclery

Stirling, New Jersey

**THE RIDE** This B-pace, no-drop ride leaves Tuesday evenings along a path that leads into the hills of Bernardsville, in north Jersey. There are some tough climbs on the 25- to 30-miler.

**THE SCENE** Afterward, cyclists lounge on the outdoor patio of the saloon-style Stirling Hotel while working their way through the selection of 14 draft beers.

**THE SCOOP** highgearcyclery.com

## Mellow Velo

Santa Fe, New Mexico

**THE RIDE** This loosely organized ride heads to the twisty Dale Ball Trail system Tuesday and Thursday evenings, covering 10 to 12 miles on a network of intermediate to advanced singletrack wedged into the Sangre de Cristo foothills. Flatlanders, take note: The altitude is between 7,400 and 8,500 feet.

**THE SCENE** The shop makes itself tourist-friendly by renting both hardtail and full-suspension bikes.

**THE SCOOP** mellowvelo.com

## City Bikes

Washington, DC

**THE RIDE** Bakery owner Sol Schott created this casual no-drop outing, otherwise known as the Cupcake Ride. The mostly flat 18-mile ride begins in DC and briefly enters Maryland's scenic Rock Creek Park before rolling back into the nation's capital.

**THE SCENE** True to the ride's name, cyclists clip out for treats from Schott's bakery, including Sol's cupcakes, pastries and, sometimes, his renowned blueberry cobbler.

**THE SCOOP** citybikes.com

## The Bicycle Doctor

Middletown, New York

**THE RIDE** This 25- to 35-mile ride quickly separates into multiple groups, some of which tackle numerous long hills.

**THE SCENE** The Hump Ride is a loop that circumnavigates a rescue preserve for injured camels and other animals; an image of the exotic beast is emblazoned on the jersey of the riding club.

**THE SCOOP** middletownbicycledoctor.com

## Liberty Bicycles

Asheville, North Carolina

**THE RIDE** This 20- to 40-mile ride is a casual no-drop affair covering rolling terrain—and one or two of the longer 3- to 5-mile climbs common to the Smoky Mountain region.

**THE SCENE** Riders refer to this as the oldest ride in the area—not because of its longevity, but because the majority of participants are senior citizens.

**THE SCOOP** libertybikes.com



The Sunday Cupcake Ride from City Bikes in Washington, DC, features a casual roll to Maryland—and baked goods from Schott's.

photographed by SEAN MCCORMICK





A cyclist in a black and white jersey and a white helmet is riding a road bike on a paved road. The road curves through a mountainous landscape with green hills and a wooden guardrail. The sky is overcast with soft light. The cyclist's shadow is cast on the road.

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The ride out of Boone, North Carolina, features enough big Appalachian climbs over its 45-mile length that cyclists are usually happy to roll back into the Boone Bike and Touring Lot.

*photographed by  
PATRICK CAVAN BROWN*



GO TO [BICYCLING.COM/SHOPRIDES](http://BICYCLING.COM/SHOPRIDES) TO CHECK OUT OUR COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF AMERICA'S BEST SHOP RIDES. THERE, YOU CAN:

- Read about 50-plus more great shop rides from all over the United States.
- Download directions and GPS files for the more than 100 total rides featured in the magazine and on the website.
- Upload your own shop's ride to share with BICYCLING readers.
- Join the BICYCLING Magazine Ride Maps Team and see your rides in print and online.

## Bishop's Bicycles

Milford, Ohio

\*Pictured on pages 38-39

**THE RIDE** Bishop's has been around for 120 years—that's right, since the 1800s—so it's fair to say that the 35-mile Thursday-night A/B/C group ride is pretty well dialed. The beloved Covered Bridge ride allows participants to tackle two climbs while rolling through the bucolic surroundings and under the namesake bridge. **THE SCENE** After the workout, many of the 40 or so riders head to MJ's on Main for beer, live music and café-style outdoor seating. **THE SCOOP** [bishopsbicycles.net](http://bishopsbicycles.net)

22 to 25 miles, so the leaders can open the shop on time. **THE SCENE** Scott's draws a loyal clientele; in 1991, when the shop burned down, customers helped reopen it one block up the street within two days. **THE SCOOP** [scottscycle.com](http://scottscycle.com)

## LoweRiders Bikes and Boards

Downingtown, Pennsylvania

**THE RIDE** This B-paced, 12-mile mountain-bike ride plunges into Marsh Creek State Park for moderately technical climbing and insanely fun groomed singletrack. **THE SCENE** Riders usually retire to Foster Boys, a local BYOB pizza

**The Action Wheels ride is so well established that cops often stop traffic at major intersections—and Victory Brewing is sometimes a "sponsor."**

tight back roads of the Nashville area's countryside. **THE SCENE** For its more casual adherents, Eastside Cycles shares the wealth by posting an interactive calendar that features other local rides. **THE SCOOP** [eastside-cycles.com/events.html](http://eastside-cycles.com/events.html)

up before splitting into groups, which then tackle between 13 and 54-plus miles. **THE SCENE** The rides head out along urban roads at staggered times to separate the entry-level Tour de Donut from the elite McKinney Pro. **THE SCOOP** [bikemart.com](http://bikemart.com)

## Contender Bicycles

Salt Lake City

**THE RIDE** After the 5-mile spin to the base of history-filled Emigration Canyon, this 20-mile hammerfest tests even the strongest legs. The 6.5-mile climb to the top of the canyon brings impressive views—followed by a swooping, fast descent. **THE SCENE** The user-friendly shop offers beginner-appropriate rides on other days of the week; check out its blog for the schedule. **THE SCOOP** [contenderbicycles.com](http://contenderbicycles.com)

## Revolution Cycles

Stafford, Virginia

**THE RIDE** The 20- to 25-mile no-drop Sunday-morning venture travels the flat, smooth roads surrounding the Quantico Marine Corps base in northern Virginia. **THE SCENE** Postride, many of the cyclists head off together for doughnuts and coffee. **THE SCOOP** [revolutioncycles.com](http://revolutioncycles.com)


## Bicycle Butler

Spokane, Washington

**THE RIDE** Mixing various loops around the area and inside nearby Riverside State Park, this Wednesday-night mountain-bike ride features 30 to 35 miles of flowing trails and some climbing, with a few technical sections. **THE SCENE** Postride, cyclists grab a beer and BBQ at the shop and are welcome to use the shop's stand to make adjustments or fixes. **THE SCOOP** [bicyclebutler.com](http://bicyclebutler.com)

## Williamson Bicycle Works

Madison, Wisconsin

**THE RIDE** The Monday-evening 15- to 25-mile no-drop ride cruises along this renowned bike town's moderate terrain. Expect a few gentle rollers, but the overall pace is set on recovery mode. **THE SCENE** The shop is located near the University of Wisconsin-Madison, so after summer rides participants often head over to the campus's Memorial Union Terrace for live music. **THE SCOOP** [willybikes.com](http://willybikes.com) 



## Orrville Cycle and Fitness

Orrville, Ohio

**THE RIDE** Established 20 years ago, this ride separates into A- and B-paced groups that cover between 25 and 50 miles (depending on how long the daylight holds out) on routes that roll south of Wayne County into idyllic heartland landscapes. **THE SCENE** Amish communities pepper the area; give the buggies a wide berth. **THE SCOOP** [orrvillecycling.com](http://orrvillecycling.com)

## River City Bicycles

Portland, Oregon

**THE RIDE** This no-drop beginner ride in one of America's alpha cycling cities leaves the shop on Sunday mornings, typically covering flat paths with the occasional roller. **THE SCENE** Ride leaders Lisa and Sarah focus on developing cycling skills by emphasizing fundamentals and discussing what to look out for along the course. **THE SCOOP** [rivercitybicycles.com](http://rivercitybicycles.com)

## Scott's Cycle

Salem, Oregon

**THE RIDE** Tuesday and Thursday rides split into three groups, spinning 20 to 40 miles over the rolling terrain of Oregon's country roads. The Saturday-morning ride lasts less than two hours, covering

joint, or to Victory Brewing, for the world-class HopDevil. **THE SCOOP** [loweriders.com](http://loweriders.com)

## Sunshine Cycle Shop

Greenville, South Carolina

**THE RIDE** The early-Saturday-morning Hour of Power covers about 30 miles and—this is far from the Lowcountry—climbs a stout 2,500 feet through the Blue Ridge foothills. **THE SCENE** Sunshine Cycles opens early for the 15 to 30 riders and offers fresh-brewed Leopard Forest coffee—on the house. Sometimes riders cool down by watching classic cycling videos. **THE SCOOP** [sunshinecycle.com](http://sunshinecycle.com)

## Bike to Nature

Lexington, South Carolina

**THE RIDE** With as many as 30 riders, this 18-mph-pace ride follows country roads lined by peach trees and farms—and a few stop signs. **THE SCENE** After 30-plus miles of pastoral scenery, riders head to the shop for Gatorade and snacks. **THE SCOOP** [biketonature.com](http://biketonature.com)

## Eastside Cycles

Nashville, Tennessee

**THE RIDE** Averaging around 16 mph for 40 miles, the Sunday-morning no-drop ride hews to the

## Boone Bike and Touring

Boone, North Carolina

**THE RIDE** Set in the mountains of western North Carolina, this Tuesday-nighter covers plenty of long, hard climbs over its 45-mile length. In fact, the shop folk claim it's the hardest ride in all of North Carolina. And the pack of up to 60 riders can include both local racers and the occasional Bissell pro-cycling team member. **THE SCENE** Riders kick off their recovery with the Tuesday specials at the Boone Saloon: \$1.25 tacos and \$4.25 pitchers. **THE SCOOP** [boonebike.com](http://boonebike.com)

## Jack & Adam's Bicycles

Austin, Texas

**THE RIDE** The 67-mile recovery ride winds through rolling farmland, passes under shady trees and cruises through small-town tableaus rife with refueling opportunities. **THE SCENE** Several dam-created lakes along the course offer the possibility of a quick swim. **THE SCOOP** [jackandadams.com](http://jackandadams.com)

## Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop

Austin, Texas

**THE RIDE** A no-drop, B-paced women's ride, the 20- to 25-mile route starts in downtown Austin and takes one of three loops (depending on the whims of the assemblage) along the city's remaining safe, quiet roads. **THE SCENE** After the ride and a stretching session, participants often head to Royal Blue Grocery Store for Sophia's sparkling wine and strawberries. **THE SCOOP** [mellowjohnnys.com](http://mellowjohnnys.com)

## Richardson Bike Mart

Richardson, Texas

**THE RIDE** Six rides leave on Saturday mornings, and nearly 500 riders have been known to show