

Camelback Trails

Contributed by Kirk
Monday, 16 July 2007
Last Updated Wednesday, 31 October 2007

I hooked up with Joe from IMBA through this club I found near my hometown of Emmaus, PA: Valley Mountain Bikers. Looks like this group has found many great trails to ride in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas. The trails Joe took me on were located in the Pocono region next to Camelback ski Area. We started in a lot near the top of a peak at around 2000".

Another guy joined us from the club named John who had bad luck at his last encounter on these trails but he conquered them this day without any problem. I really liked his 29er full suspension Gary Fisher! You could use a bike like that on these trails - many good sized embedded rocks and a few short descents.

The entire ride was only a little over 15 miles and 1400 ft. of climbing but the trails varied like no other place I have ridden. It started off with some rocky single-track and then opened up onto some fire roads. At one point we were traversing a short brush plateau that exfoliated your legs. This part of the trail was only 12-14" wide and have handlebar high brush - one miscalculation and you could do some damage!

The most bizarre part of the ride is this dead forest area. It was either some sort of beetle (I saw larva squirming out of the bark) or a moth as there were thousands flying around. Of course there was a strange (to me) guy we ran into that Joe knew. He carried a serrated hunting knife harnessed on his shoulder and what looked to be a can of bear repellent around his torso?

It was a great ride and it was nice to meet some new folks. I hope to get out there again some time soon.