

# Narrowback North Map #1

Almost all Forest Service Trails are marked at the start of the trail by a flexible brown plastic post. These posts are about waist high and have the trail number printed on them. These numbers will be used in the following directions and correspond to the numbers and names on the National Geographic maps. Follow the white arrows on the provided map to ride the trail in the manner described below

## Ride Stats

**Distance:** nine miles

**Elevation gain:** 1489'

**Difficulty:** Moderate, the relatively short climb up to the ridge makes Narrowback ridgeline much friendlier than the hour long climbs to get on top of the higher mountains. This ride has less climbing and more flow over a longer distance than Narrowback South. Also provides a good introduction to XC riding in the George Washington National Forest. Allow anywhere from 2-3.5 hours for the entire loop

**Corresponding National Geographic Map:** Staunton Shenandoah Mountain #791 Quadrant K-15

## Driving Directions: About a 30 minute drive

- Route 42 South from Harrisonburg for 3 miles to town of Dayton
- After seeing sign for Dayton, take a right after 3rd quick stop light onto Route 257 west
- Go 5 miles to stop sign at Ottobine, left on Route 257 follow sign to Reddish Knob
- Follow Route 257 3 miles to "257 Market", then turn right on Route 257
- Follow Route 257 past entrance of Hone Quarry Recreation Area, then take left onto Tilghman (Tillman) Road (dirt)
- Follow Tilghman road for a little over two miles and through open white forest service gate
- Parking is on left at the old house foundation, which will be the first left-hand turn off Tilghman

You should see the brown sign for trail #432, this is the trail you will take back down to the car

Narrowback North is often ridden in conjunction with Narrowback South but by itself provides an excellent ride with a little less climbing than cookie trail and less rocks. The Festival trail of Narrowback North has better flow when ridden south to north than the cookie trail ridden north to south

## Riding Directions

- Start by riding out of the parking lot and back up to Tilghman, make a left onto Tilghman to continue uphill to the "dog graveyard." Once at the top of the Tilghman hill you will see a dirt pull out on the left with a small pet cemetery hidden in the woods. **\*\*\*IF YOU BEGIN TO GO DOWNHILL ON TILGHMAN YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR AND MISSED YOUR LEFT TURN\*\*\*** Take a left and follow a few steep pitches up to a small shale pit. Once at the pit, skirt the white gate to the far right of the quarry. You will now be on the "dog graveyard" trail (recently bulldozed fairly wide)
- Follow the "dog graveyard" trail up until it intersects with trail 432 Narrowback North, take a right and you will soon find yourself up on the Narrowback ridgeline **\*\*\*this turn is easy to miss you will climb "dog graveyard" and then begin to go downhill look for an intersecting trail while you are at speed\*\*\***
- Make a left onto the "festival" trail (#432B) and you will follow the festival trail for almost three miles of flowing sometimes rocky ridgeline
- After 2.5 miles you will begin to drop off the ridge with a right-hand berm turn, after about half a mile the trail will begin to resemble double track, then the trail will dump you out onto a fire road (536).
- Take a right on 536 and head south for roughly three miles of rolling terrain At the top of one of the longer and steeper pitches look for a brown sign for a trail on the right "Narrowback" (#432), if you end up at a white gate, you have gone a few pitches too far
- Take a right onto "Narrowback" (#432) and climb a short but steep pitch back up to the ridgeline
- Take a left when "Narrowback" (432) intersects with the festival trail, then take your next right to go back down "Narrowback" (432)
  - **\*\*\*Option\*\*\*** go straight on the ridge "cookie" trail rather than taking the right back to the car, follow directions on Narrowback South for loop directions.\*\*\*
- Follow "Narrowback" (432) straight down the mountain without turning onto any other trails, cross a creek and then a bridge and then you should see your car

Directions provided by: **Shenandoah Bicycle Company**  
 135 South Main Street Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

(540) 437-9000  
 Monday-Friday 11:00am-7:00pm  
 Saturdays 9:00 am-4:00pm



www.Shenandoahbicycle.com

