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## Being There: Borrego Springs Cycling Camp

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**The Borrego Springs Cycling Camp (BSCC) features some of San Diego County's most epic climbs and descents, all focusing on base mile training.**

Road Bike Action recently hit the road, and our destination was the cycling-mad county of San Diego. First stop, Borrego Springs. The city of Borrego Springs, California is home to around 3500 people and sits nestled in the desert of Northeastern San Diego County. Home to several golf courses and a seemingly endless array of antique and artisan shops, quaint Borrego Springs is often described as a "fun getaway that's reminiscent of what Palm Springs was 50 years ago." And on top of that, the town played host to

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famed cycling coach Arnie Baker's Borrego Springs Cycling Camp, a week-long, invite-only event that became a local Southern California staple on the training schedules of many top pro riders throughout its nearly two-decade history.



When Baker and fellow camp director Robert Panzera of **Cycling Camp San Diego** (<http://www.ccsd.com/>) were unable to continue leading the Borrego Springs event, up stepped Mike Wilson. One of the big wigs at Kali Helmets and an ultra-long distance cyclist who entered his first Race Across America event in 2012, Wilson took charge of the Borrego Springs Cycling Camp in order to continue a legacy of base mile training in a beautiful setting with good friends. The amazing stretch of road above is known as Montezuma Grade. It's a two-lane, 14-mile stretch of pristine asphalt that snakes its way along the cliffside straight down into Borrego Springs. As far as the pure adrenaline rush that a road bike descent can offer, Montezuma (aka the "Glass Elevator") has very few equals. It served the camp well as both a Beyond Category climb and a white-knuckle descent. Look for an in-depth feature story on the Borrego Springs Cycling Camp in a future issue of *Road Bike Action Magazine*.



The California desert is truly a magical place. At night, the number of stars lighting up the sky around Borrego Springs is immeasurable. And in the morning, the sunrise is nothing short of spectacular.

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The Borrego Springs Cycling Camp found a home base in the form of the **Borrego Springs Resort** (<http://www.borregospringsresort.com/home.asp>). Located just a few miles from the heart of Borrego Springs proper, the Borrego Springs Resort feature luxurious accommodations and sits right next to a golf course.



One of the camp's long rides left Borrego Springs by way of Highway 78 and headed southwest towards Banner Grade road. From there, a fantastic climb winds its way through a beautiful valley that's popular with hikers and campers, all the way into the town of Julian. One of the day's rest stops included the Julian Library.



Continuing along Highway 79 south, our group made its way to the shore of Lake Cuyamaca and up Engineers Road. A relatively steep climb is rewarded with a terrific descent that provides plenty of amazing scenery and is reminiscent of many areas in Northern California. The day's intrepid "Long Course" group included (l-r) Gary, owner of **Adventure Travel Group** (<http://www.adventuretravelgroup.com/>), Optum-KBS pro Janel Holcomb, Phil Coats, Kali's Mike Wilson and local racer Todd Boussom.



Engineers Road led us back to Highway 79, which we took north to the town of Santa Ysabel, home of one of the twin **Julian Pie Company** (<http://www.julianpie.com/>) locations, nestled among a collection of antique shops and other roadside attractions.



And what's the Julian Pie Company's best-selling dish, you ask? Why, that would be the Dutch Apple pie, complete with homemade whipped cream. Add to that an apple and maple donut, and a large Coke, and you have the makings of a perfect mid-century ride meal.



Mike Wilson is one of the big wigs at **Kali helmets** (<http://www.kaliprotectives.com/>) and he's also an accomplished long distance cyclist. Having participated in the 2012 **Race Across America** ([http://www.raceacrossamerica.org/raam/raam.php?N\\_webcat\\_id=1](http://www.raceacrossamerica.org/raam/raam.php?N_webcat_id=1)), Wilson is training hard for next year's edition. Among his dedicated support staff is his fiancée, Andrea, who among other things drives the follow vehicle and plays DJ by blasting music through the van's custom external speaker system. During our ride, Andrea was unanimously voted "MVP" on the day for customizing a sweet mix of '80s and early '90s rock and dance tunes.

**CANARI KEEPS CUSTOM CLOTHING MADE IN THE USA**



San Diego County is home to a plethora of companies in the bike industry, including the clothing brand, **Canari** (<http://www.canari.com/>). And unlike many clothing companies, Canari keeps plenty of its manufacturing in the US by producing 100% of its custom clothing orders inside its Vista, California factory. Examples of all recently produced custom gear are kept on-hand for easy reference by Canari artists.



If you order custom jerseys and shorts from a clothing company, chances are that they'll send you some drawings of your proposed design before sending a sample, before finally sending the complete order. But Canari goes a step further by sending the initial designs printed on the chosen fabric. This helps customers confirm color and shape choices long before any production samples are made, keeping costs down and eliminating any surprises. Look for an in-depth tour of the Canari clothing factory in a future issue of *Road Bike Action Magazine*.

**CAMPAGNOLO COMBINES RIDING AND GIFT-GIVING ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE**



Each December, the folks at **Campagnolo** (<http://www.campagnolo.com/jsp/en/index/index.jsp>) send out an invite to members of the cycling industry and local riders to attend their annual Holiday Toy Drive and Ride. The cost of the ride is free, but attendees are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to the Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, California. This year's ride was held in honor of Troy Angwin, a cycling industry veteran who tragically passed away earlier this year, and all of the donated gifts will be given to the hospital in Troy's name. Find out more about **Rady Children's Hospital** (<http://www.rchsd.org/>).



While many toys were collected at the ride, the "best in show" award went to the set of giant plush dogs, which are guaranteed to make raise some holiday cheer for some very special kids.



Very, very, very few people can rock a Santa hat, Santa shorts and Sriracha socks while on the bike, and Campagnolo's Tom Kattus is one of them. "TK" is the main man at Campagnolo North America, and his graciousness and immensely big heart make him the perfect person to play Ol' Saint Nick.  
Michael White



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(Photos: Bettini) The second Ardennes Classic of 2015, Flèche Wallone, saw plenty of gutsy moves throughout the day, along with a fair share of crashes that took



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WARNING: Much of the action depicted in this magazine is potentially dangerous. Virtually all of the riders seen in our photos are experienced experts or professionals. Do not attempt to duplicate any stunts that are beyond your own capabilities. Always wear the appropriate safety gear.



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